

Welcome, thrice welcome are the joyful tidings that the few Catholic children, chiefly the offspring of mixed marriages, who have hitherto been torn away from the loving care of their spiritual mother, the holy Church of God, and have been handed over by one or both of their semi-Catholic or apostate parents to the perilous guardianship of the Public School Board, for the formation, as it were, of their minds and morals and manners, and their healthful training in all the domestic and social virtues, have been delivered from the terrible danger of shipwreck of their faith, and consequent loss of religion and morality, to which they have been exposed in the schools controlled and directed by the declared enemies of their faith and their Church. We have all the more reason to rejoice and be thankful for the happy termination of our grave anxieties in respect of the purity of faith and morals of this small fragment of less than one per cent. of the rising Catholic generation in our city, because the action of the public school board, and the studiously insulting spirit and manner of their action, supply a guarantee for the future as well as for the present, and secure to Christ and His Church not alone those few helpless waifs for whose unexpected safety we thank God to-day, but also Catholic children yet unborn, whom the anathema of the public school board will effectually save from incurring similar danger through the venality or religious indifference or cowardly weakness of their parents.

It was competent to us, as to other Bishops in this Province, to employ the various methods of correction provided by God and His Church for enforcement of Episcopal authority and the protection of the lambs of the fold against betrayal by their unnatural parents. We preferred, however, to follow the ways of patience and gentle persuasion, especially because the laws of Catholic life on the subject of education of the young are observed with such edifying unanimity and steadfastness by our faithful people of Kingston, whereas the instances of wilful disobedience have been remarkably few—in fact so few that we venture to express our conviction of the inability of any other city whatever in this Province to unfold so creditable a record of fidelity to religious duty.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation” (2 Cor. 2), for that which we forebore to do, lest we should give too much pain to those who obstinately disobeyed us and resisted the Holy Ghost from whom we hold our commission “to rule the

Chur
cese,
malice
has co
his w
directl
bribed
against
tering
instead
emolu
to de
One, th
his wic
though
Even
the cit
the ter
ally, a
of thei
destini
unwitt
protect
of a s
asham
dren, &
able to
“That
now re
School
tees wh
amiabl
have re
jected t
cried, “
cemvir
with th
are sci
names
in the
trusted
had ca
on its a
ed that
their iq
attentio