

of carrying it through the House. In the meantime the influence of Quebec and that of nearly all the Roman Catholic members and constituencies of the Dominion are in favour of the coercive measure. We have no hesitation in saying, as our opinion, that if the ecclesiastics who rule Quebec had the power they would have no scruples, to sacrifice the constitution of our country to satisfy the decision of the Pope on educational and all other matters. The constitutional question has by factious appeal been carried before the highest legal tribunal of the British Empire. Ten thousand dollars have been voted from the public funds of the Dominion for defraying the expenses of the vexatious litigation. The enemies of our school system have at least so far carried their point as to put the public to the expense of paying for their factious opposition. The war of Mr. Costigan and his abettors is one waged against our constitutional rights. If we allow the citadel thus to be taken, the whole of the outposts will soon be in the hands of the enemy. The advocates of separate schools are determined to force the Lower Provinces into submission by the domination of Quebec.

#### THE R. C. PASTORAL.

Early in the season the Archbishop of Halifax and the five Bishops of the Lower Provinces issued a pastoral in which they boldly demanded the establishment of a separate school system in these Provinces. To this "Pastoral" the sub-committee for Nova Scotia at once prepared and published a reply, and took the necessary steps for circulating it largely among the people. Our example was promptly followed by the committee of the Wesleyan Conference and that of the Baptist Convention. These replies we are assured did much in arousing the people of the country to a sense of their duty, and in some measure preparing the way for the struggle which followed.

#### IN THE LOCAL PARLIAMENT.

The question was tested both in the Parliaments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. In both cases after a long and warm debate, the decision of the vote was in favour of our free unsectarian school system and adverse to the demands of the "Pastoral." The representatives in P. E. Island deserve special praise for standing firmly by their principles and recording their votes against separate schools.

#### THE ELECTORS TESTED.

In New Brunswick the question has been tried at the polls. The contest has been very fierce. No stone has been left unturned by the friends of separate schools to win their cause. But the triumph over the

priestly power has been complete. The people of New Brunswick have nobly resisted the attack made upon their constitutional rights as well as the blow aimed at their educational institutions. Every lover of freedom and equal rights throughout the Dominion will thank them for the battle so bravely fought and the victory so signally won. They have struck a decisive blow in defence of the constitution of the confederacy as well as secured the best educational interests of their own Province. We thank them for rebuking the men who at the bidding of a foreign potentate, would not hesitate to destroy our free unsectarian school system by burying it beneath the ruins of the constitution.

#### THE LAW EVADED.

In Nova Scotia the policy of the enemy has not been open warfare, but secret plotting. The ecclesiastical rulers of the Romish Church have made no open assault upon the citadel, further than what was made in the Bishop's Pastoral, but they have undertaken to sap its foundations or bribe its keepers. They use their political power to make the administrators of the law their subservient tools. Stratagem is succeeding here far better than open war in the other Provinces. Separate schools of the most sectarian character are in full operation in the city of Halifax, and in other parts of the Province of Nova Scotia. In several, if not all of these schools the sectarian doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church are diligently taught. The Roman Catholic Church holidays are scrupulously observed. Text books not prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction are used. Images, pictures and crucifixes form part of the school furniture or decoration—we suppose we might more justly say—they form part of the teaching apparatus of the schools. The teachers wear the peculiar religious garb of their order, and they have been exempted from the regular examination to which the other teachers of the Province are subjected before getting a license. No wonder when the conditions are so easy that nearly all the Brothers and Sisters of Charity employed as teachers in the public schools rank as first-class teachers, and of course draw first-class salaries from the public treasury. In the city of Halifax alone these Roman Catholic schools received from the School Funds a sum not less than \$24,000 for their direct current expenses during the past year. It is very obvious that such schools are conducted in the direct interest and under the direct control of the Romish Hierarchy. No other denomination in the Province has the same privilege which is thus accorded to the Roman Catholics, contrary to the spirit and letter of our school law.