

Bishop, it is evident that the whole weight of insult and religious hate fell upon each and every Catholic pupil in the schools, upon all who bear the Catholic name and own their allegiance to the Bishop as their divinely-appointed pastor and father and guardian of their souls' welfare. The adamant bond of Catholic unity displays its strength here. Cruel treatment of one member of the family is an offence against all, more especially when it is proclaimed to be an attack upon the father. Therefore did We in Our former Pastoral Letter unhesitatingly deliver to you this prediction: "The Public School Board, who adopted the revolting ukase, have been foiled of their iniquitous purpose by the Holy Spirit who rules the destinies of the Catholic Church, and have been made the unwitting and unwilling instruments of our poor children's protection against the irreligious and demoralizing influence of a system of education dominated by men who were not ashamed to approve a decree so unjust to helpless little children, so unchristian in its violence, and so shockingly uncharitable to their fellow-citizens." And We explained to you the reason of Our prediction, as follows: "Thank God, the decemvirate, or the majority of them, have at last drawn the line beyond which no Catholic parent, even the most venal or most indifferent, can ever pass again. The adoption of a rule of Catholic exclusion from the common schools of the city, were it couched in terms wholly inoffensive, would suffice to prevent the most mean-spirited of them from soliciting readmission for his child. But now the unexampled ferocity of the order for "expulsion," the phrensied spirit of hate and revenge that spoke from within the proposer of the resolution and reverberated through the Board room, "Yes, 'expelled' was the proper word," shall serve for a perpetual warning to them and those who shall come after them, to give ear to the precepts and admonitions of the Church of God and abhor the very thought of risking the faith and salvation of their offspring by withdrawing them from the holy influence of religion and placing them under the care of men notorious for their hostility to the Catholic name."

And so it has come to pass. Parents and children, who hitherto have been connected with the Public Schools, gathered around Us with alacrity this week on Our return from Visitation of the missions, and professed their loyal obedience and ready submission to the Church, that is, to the Bishop, whom "the Holy Ghost has set to rule the Church of God, which He has purchased with His blood" in this diocese of Kingston (Acts xx.) and on whom the command is