

The Church, with a view of encouraging our Religious Ladies to educate your daughters thus carefully, in all respects, has lately given them for a model and Patroness St. Angela of Merici, Foundress of the Ursulines, so honorably known throughout the world; in which, following the example set them by their mother, *they teach young girls, rich and poor, the first elements of their faith; how to live with regularity and chastity; and they train them to those labours that are befitting their sex.* (Decree of the Holy See, dated 11 July, 1861).

This, Beloved Brethren, is the kind of education which you must endeavour to secure for your children: by so doing you will rear up for your Country virtuous families, destined to inherit from generation to generation, the blessings promised to the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whose Patriarchal manners you shall have imitated.

The third evil you have to dread, is the love of the pleasures of the world. By these, we mean theatrical performances, shows, comedies, and operas, where the laws of modesty are trampled under foot; and those dances, revolting to pure minds, which are but too freely indulged in at balls and other worldly assemblies. It is impossible for you to shun in these profane amusements, without exposing yourselves to the proximate occasion of sin; for every thing in them is calculated to produce an evil impression, to give scandal, and to sully purity and innocence.

You will, therefore, make it a rule to refrain from them yourselves, and to forbid them to your children, if you are sincerely desirous that they should preserve their virtue. Be not surprised when Confessors, who are responsible before God for your souls, exhibit severity, in the tribunal of penitence, towards those who refuse to submit to their injunctions, on a point so highly important as this.

Nevertheless, Beloved Brethren, you must not infer, that it is our intention to deprive you of every kind of amusement and to prohibit the frequenting of all kinds of social meetings. This is far from being our wish; for we know that the law of God permits you to rejoice, to enjoy innocent recreation, and to afford your children the opportunity of attending certain social meetings, certain evening parties, where every thing is conducted in accordance with the rules of good breeding, and where the wise precautions prescribed by christian prudence are carefully observed.

In fine, there is a last evil, which we would fain exhibit to you in all its repulsiveness: It is the evil of Drunkenness, which has reappeared in our Towns and in our Rural Districts, more triumphant than ever, and which brings along with it the most frightful evils. These evils are manifest at all times, but more especially during elections, which, by reason of their frequent