

this Province are not a whit behind their non-Catholic fellow-citizens in denying the truth of your statements about the public schools and the character of the youth taught therein. . . . Protestants can well afford to smile at your fulminations as items of amusement, but Catholics cannot help feeling and desiring that so far as Your Lordship has gone on the points at issue, it would be very much better that the face of the picture was turned to the wall."

We may safely leave the Bishop with his plain-spoken co-religionist; and the fulminations might be allowed to pass as "items of amusement," were it not that the animus against our public school system does not exist in the mind of Bishop Cleary alone. The clergy of his diocese follow up his Napanee tirade with an address of confidence and sympathy couched in the most flattering language, on the eve of his departure to Rome with the Pope's jubilee collections. The other bishops of Ontario have more decency and self-control, but their common policy is to establish separate schools wherever possible, and to protect the children of their flocks by all means from the baneful effects of whatever religious instruction is given in the public schools. This does not surprise us. Rome could pursue no other policy and be consistent. In several of the United States, notably at present in New York, the public school system is being assailed. The plan in New York is to obtain a division of the public school funds. Of course Protestants are to have their share too, which they can use as they please. The proposal looks somewhat innocent. It really means that the State shall teach Romanism. As the *Christian At Work* has recently said:—"They are determined, if they can, to make the State supply Roman Catholic instruction to the thousands of nondescript waifs and poor children of Catholic churches, and so save to the Church the expense of the religious instruction of their children. There is not a Roman Catholic prelate in the country who will have anything else than distinctively Roman Catholic doctrine declared to the children of Roman Catholics, and this instruction must be inculcated by a priest." Such separate and denominational teaching is the mother of rancour and strife and division in communities, and in the State, as we know right well in the Dominion. We are not in love with it, although Confederation has saddled it upon us apparently for all time to come; and we are little inclined to bear with patience abuse heaped upon our public schools and the girls who attend them, and the women who have been educated in them, from a representative of those who, in addition to the liberty of the public schools, have large special privileges in their separate school system.

Bishop Cleary has entered on a dangerous course. His ecclesiasti-