

AT ST. MICHAEL'S PRO-CATHEDRAL.

After the Gospel, at the Bishop's Mass, last Sunday, Jan. 16, 1898, he made the following brief announcement:—

A few days ago the Pope's Encyclical in the original Latin, on the Manitoba School Question came to us in the usual way, through our Most Rev. Metropolitan, the Archbishop of Halifax, to whom ordinarily such official documents are sent from Rome, to be re-distributed by him to the various suffragan bishops of his ecclesiastical province. In the Archbishop's letter dated: Archbishop's House, Halifax, Jan. 10, 1898, is stated: "My Dear Lord—I am sending you a copy of the Pope's Encyclical which reached here only on Saturday, and of which I am preparing an English translation. Should you desire copies of the English translation for your clergy, please let me know by telegraph how many you would require.

"In conjunction with this matter I may say that when in Montreal last week a form of letter of promulgation was agreed upon by several of the Archbishops. Possibly, you may have received a communication from Mgr. Begin on this question. I may say that as he was obliged by an order from Rome to promulgate the Encyclical at once, we agreed that he should publish at the same time the Pastoral alluded to, and that we in promulgating the Encyclical in our diocese would adopt that letter as our own. Should your Lordship feel inclined to do likewise, you can obtain from Mgr. Begin as many copies as you may require both in French and English.

* * * C. O'Brien, Abp. of Halifax,"

Similar letters have come from Abp. Begin of Quebec and Abp. Bruchesi of Montreal.

In conformity and unity with our venerated Archbishop and the other Bishops we adopt the same plan; and, therefore, to-day at the end of this Mass will be read by one of the Rev. Fathers, at the usual time for making the announcements, the said pastoral letter of promulgation; and at the High Mass will be read the said Papal Encyclical itself. This was done accordingly.

During the week when the packages telegraphed for, arrive from Halifax and Quebec, copies will be duly forwarded to the priests throughout the Diocese to be read in their respective churches next Sunday.

This is not in the spirit of political partyism but in the spirit of obedience to the Supreme Visible Head of the Church, whose infallible pronouncements in matters of faith and morals—of religious truths, not mere worldly or secular opinions which may vary or differ—are protected from error by Him who commands us to hear and obey. Christ says: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not"—by a mere secular or neutral education, preventing them from growing up in the habits of practicing and learning their duty to God, to themselves, and to their fellow men. "He that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea." [Matt. XVIII.]

But to those who teach correctly, in the spirit of "faith that worketh by charity" a great reward is held out: "Whatever you do to the least of these is done to Me" says our Lord in the Gospel; and the Holy Ghost proclaims the reward of this duty: "They who instruct many to justice shall shine as the stars for all eternity." [Daniel XII. 3.]

REV. DEAR SIR: On the first Sunday after the receipt of this, please read the accompanying Encyclical and Pastoral in the vernacular language, without further comment, for your flock at the parish mass.

Praying God to bless you all, and to preserve all in peace and unity in His service.

I remain, Rev. and dear Sir, faithfully your humble and devoted servant in J. C.

† JAMES ROGERS, Bp. of Chatham.

Given at Chatham, on this 18th day of January, Feast of St. Peter's Chair at Rome, 1898.