

After having formed the hearts of your children to virtue, by your examples, Dearly Beloved Brethren, endeavor to procure for them the advantages of a good education, and refuse not to make the sacrifices that the fulfilment of this duty may require from you. No doubt, you are not bound to anything beyond your means, but take care not to exaggerate in your own eyes your inability or your indigence, lest some day, when it will be too late, you may have to regret that you neglected so important a duty as that of instructing your children.

It would be a strange and deplorable contradiction, if, after having taken great care to form the hearts of your children, by your teachings and by your examples, you allowed them all kinds of books and reviews, newspapers and novels, without troubling yourselves to keep away from them every thing that might corrupt their faith or their morals.

But it would be still more deplorable, if, in the choice of masters to whom you wish to confide your children, you took no heed of moral securities, and if you looked before all to knowledge or cheapness. Of course, knowledge is a necessary quality in a good teacher, but it is not the only one. "For, says the Sovereign Pontiff, Gregory XVI, of happy memory, when youth is corrupted by the maxims and examples of its teachers, the loss to religion is much greater, and the perversity of morals becomes more profound." (*Encyclical of Gregory XVI. the 15th. Aug. 1832.*)

This is why the Pontiff who now governs so gloriously the Church, earnestly recommends to all the bishops to watch "that the youths collected together in schools, should have none but blameless masters, both in religion and in morals, in order that, whilst teaching them true virtue, they may enable them to discover the snares laid for them by the wicked, to avoid their deadly errors and to serve with utility both religion and country." (*Encyclical of Pius IX, 8th December 1849*).

A good master, or a good mistress, is a precious treasure for christian parents, and too many sacrifices cannot be made to obtain them. But, on the other hand, what dread ought you feel for a master, or mistress, whose sentiments and conduct would not be truly catholic; whose words would be unworthy of their high mission; whose examples would not lead to piety, and still more, whose examples would be vicious! For the terrible day will come, when the heavens shall reveal his iniquity and the earth shall rise up against him. (*Job, XX. 27.*)

Our first provincial Council, in its fifteenth decree, has already warned you of the great danger of *mixed schools*, where children of different religions are united together under the same teacher. There, on the pretext of respecting the different religious beliefs, they carefully abstain from alluding to any