

In this connection we deem it an imperative duty to condemn aloud, and to denounce the criminal conduct of some Catholics who, in defiance of the teachings of their faith and in violation of their religious obligations, as well as of their honour, dare to contract sacreligious marriages outside of the Church, before magistrates or ministers of the sects. This disgraceful and scandalous conduct merits our severest condemnation, and unless heartily repented of, is sure to bring down upon those guilty of it, the anger and chastisements of Almighty God. We would fain hope that we shall not again be compelled to deplore and condemn such a shocking abuse of a great and holy Sacrament, or forced to employ the censures of the Church in its repression.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

We shall summarize here an instruction which we addressed to you some years ago on the important subject of Catholic education:—"If we bear in mind the momentous and cardinal truth that the object of our existence here below is, to serve God and to save our souls: that this life is but the threshold to our real existence: that our home is with God and our country is heaven, we shall be at a glance the vast importance, the evident necessity of a sound Catholic education for the rising generation. It is true that our children must be fitted for the part they will have to play in this world's theatre, and for this end they need and should obtain such a mental culture as may be necessary or useful for them. The Church knows quite as well as the greatest worldlings that these children are destined for a variety of pursuits in life, and she is sensible that they must qualify themselves by the cultivation of their intellectual faculties, in order to discharge competently the duties that will be assigned them; but instead of that being the principal object of their creation, she persuades them that these are only secondary objects, which, of course, must be attended to in their short journey through life, but must,