

distinguished men like Montalembert, Veuillot, Lacordaire took part, the Catholics forced the Parliament, March 15, 1850, to annul the Napoleonic decrees and to pass a law permitting parents to choose their own teachers for their children. The Catholics in France intend to celebrate next month the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the Bill granting them freedom of instruction ; for in their eyes this law confirming parents' rights was one of the great events of the century. "There are few liberties in this world," says a recent writer, "worth one's while taking advantage of ; the liberty of serving God as He wishes to be served is one of them."

The enemies of God and His Church in that country are anxious to celebrate the anniversary in another manner, by overturning the law of 1850. Experience of the past half century has taught them that although they build Godless schools and use every inducement to fill them, the education of the majority of French children is still entrusted to Christian teachers. There is, then, only one thing for the sectaries to do, deprive those teachers of their right to teach, and even of citizenship by banishing them from their country. This is the misfortune that, at this moment, is hanging like a dark cloud over Catholic France.

Waiving the privilege of examining again the principles governing freedom of instruction, and the injustice of the actions of the household enemies of France, there are other motives urging us to pray for that noble country in the dangers that menace her. No nation deserves more from the hands of Catholics than France ; for no nation has done more for the mystical Spouse of Christ. From the moment that the waters of baptism trickled from the brow of Clovis, fourteen hundred years ago, to the present, the French have been a strong Catholic missionary people. No nation has sent so many of her children — men and women — to foreign lands to draw the heathen under the sweet yoke of Jesus Christ. They may be counted by thousands the