

thoughts and actions it quietly suggests or openly teaches. A bad book is an evil, silent and impersonal, but effective and destructive. "Great as the Sea" is the destruction it causes in individuals, in families and in society generally. The antidote to the poison of bad books is the propagation of good Catholic publications. The Apostolate of the Press, carried on in the publication and propagation of good Catholic newspapers and books, is a work of the last importance and of the utmost necessity for Catholic interests in this country. As we are circumstanced in this country very much as the Catholics in England, the following words of Cardinal Manning will be to the point here: "The whole literature of this country (England)," says his Eminence, "is written by those who sometimes unconsciously, sometimes consciously, assume an attitude of hostility to our faith. I say sometimes unconsciously, because being born in that state they often do so without being aware that they have received an heirloom of false principles and of false histories respecting the Holy Catholic Church. Without knowing it they are perpetually incorporating them with what they write, so that the greater part of the literature of this country, which is in the hands of us all, contains a systematic contradiction of all that we believe. The newspapers which fill the whole country day by day are animated by a spirit which is against us; and they are filled by details and narratives and correspondence, and with fables, fictions, fabrications and absurdities—anything that can pander to the morbid appetite, to the craving for scandals against Catholic institutions, Catholic priests and Catholic nuns."

This is but too faithful a picture of the condition of things in Western Canada. For years the atmosphere of the country has been foul and reeking with the stench of the moral filth vomited forth by immoral women and fallen, apostate priests against the Holy Catholic Church and her faithful priests and consecrated virgins, and greedily swallowed by infatuated multitudes. It is, however, a comfort to know that a lie, though sometimes long lived, can in the long run be killed by the sword of truth. It is for us Catholics to make use of the agency of the Press to refute falsehoods, to correct misrepresentations and to spread abroad the light of Catholic truth. No matter how great may be the odds against us, no matter how discouraging the prospect, we should toil at this labor of love in faith and hope. We should not cease to plant and water in the confidence that God will give the increase. The Catholic Church is revealed truth, embodied, unchangeable and imperishable. Let us defend and proclaim it ever, and its divine Founder will ensure its triumphs.