

THE "HARP."

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

CATHOLIC TEACHERS.

DEAN SWIFT'S *Tale of a Tub* has been frequently illustrated by the Common School System of Ontario. Whenever this huge educational ship is pursued by that dreaded leviathan, public opinion, she secures her own safety by placing between herself and her pursuer the smaller and weaker vessel that bears the flag of the Separate Schools. Should the public loudly complain of the vast and constant increase in the expenditure of money for the support of this bulky system, the friends of the latter create a temporary diversion by crying out against the existence of Separate Schools; and should far-seeing moral and social economists point to the injury which this godless system is likely to inflict on the rising generations, these same enthusiasts, in order to save their pet scheme, arouse bigotry and prejudice by attacking the *personnel* of Catholic teachers.

The vast majority of the Separate School teachers of this province are Christian Brothers and Sisters. They are earnest, painstaking, and zealously devoted to their work. They are unselfish in their motives; they labor neither for praise nor profit. Their zeal is the outcome of the grandest of virtues—Charity; their fidelity is the product of the noblest of principles—Duty. They teach their pupils the various branches of useful knowledge—not after the manner of cold worldlings, who make religion subservient to science, but like

Christian philosophers who teach that the summits of knowledge are best reached with religion for a guide, that learning is a means not the end of existence, and that the inevitable reward of a well-spent life is an eternity of bliss in the home of the Sovereign Good. What Catholic fails to grasp the force of these remarks, by no means novel? What Catholic parent would accept the most complete scholarship for his child as an equivalent for that child's loss of faith, piety, and perhaps, of all virtue? If with all the helps that religion can give, moral rectitude is difficult of maintenance, and eternal salvation hard to be secured, how much greater will be the difficulty, when in the very seed time of life, the mind and heart are sowed with germs of infidelity and consequent immorality?

But these Brothers and Sisters have no certificates, cry the objectors to Separate Schools. Oh, ignorant and perverse generation, how you are deceived! Is that patent piece of paper which sets forth that the holder answered a cast-iron set of questions, the only evidence of scholarship or ability to teach? Are you aware that many of these unpretending Brothers and Sisters possess certificates obtained while they were in the world, and that all of them after entering the religious life, have systematically studied, and have been systematically trained under veteran and skilful superiors? Yet all this is true. They derive their knowledge from Catho-