

upon a basis from which it cannot be shaken by the adverse winds of ignorance, upon a throne where it will reign superior to the sentiments of the godless. It would, indeed, be difficult to imagine another question, combining in grand and harmonious unity all that is essential to the mind of man, boldly entering the domain of worldly researches, and seeking with a timid knock a comparatively small knowledge of the divine Legislator. This, however, is the true province of education; and, as the corporeal and spiritual natures in man are indissoluble, so is the instruction of the mind and heart necessary to the system of education. In all things constructed in accordance with the dictates of reason, we seek some connecting principle, some uniting power, which serves to join all the component elements into one complete and harmonious whole. So, also, in forming this great structure of education we must labor earnestly to unite all subsidiary qualities in such a manner that they may all tend to one grand and ennobling object,—the instruction of the entire being, the perfection of the mind in profane knowledge, and the guidance of the soul in the attainment of that end intended by its omnipotent and omniscient Maker.

It is highly essential that a Catholic student receive an education tempered by the truths of that religion for which the martyrs suffered the pangs of most cruel torture, for which holy men have undergone the greatest hardships, and for which many have sacrificed their all on the altar of their unflinching love. Nor does it suffice to learn those lessons of piety after the lapse of several years. They must be taught from the cradle upwards, until the great sun of reason forever sets below the horizons of their lives; for, as the gentle stream, flowing with musical purlings through a beautiful landscape, imparts additional beauty to the scene, so does the light of our holy Faith cast around the brow of the enthusiastic believer a glowing halo of mellow and subdued light, which reflects upon the wearer the blushing beauty of countless jewelled coronets.

When we have a tender slip which we wish to take root, and flourish until it grows into a sturdy plant, and blossoms forth in the bloom and beauty of summer elegance, the greatest care is necessary in order to preserve the tiny shoot from all things detrimental to its healthful progress. In like manner must the youthful mind be nurtured and shielded from the cold breath of sin and shame. They alone, who have

braved the storms of life, and successfully coped with adverse elements, know the difficulties sprouting up in every path of daily life, and the necessity of being well instructed in those truths by which we may surmount all obstacles, and gain a glorious triumph on the battlefield where good and evil struggle for mastery.

It by no means suffices that a Catholic student be taught only the meagre precepts which are inculcated in the minds of those pupils who frequent the public schools. They receive, in some cases, the mere principles of a code of honor, which is framed from a knowledge of the world, and from which all allusions to moral right and wrong are excluded, on the plea—no doubt a just one—that it is impossible to combine profane and divine knowledge in schools attended by a medley of many denominations. In other public institutions of learning the Protestant religion is taught to all, irrespective of pupils to whom that creed is repugnant, and unmindful of the feelings of those whose hearts are entwined around a Faith so pure, so spotless, that the foul breath of revilers seems to leave a stain, the remembrance of which may never be eradicated from the mind of the innocent and inexperienced student.

Impressions made when the mind is still untrained, if they are not instantly removed, become so strongly stamped upon the nature that they form a part of it; and each succeeding year, adding force and energy to the reflective power, so strengthens the images received in early youth that they may poison the whole existence. Even when those principles of Faith are taught in which the Catholic and Protestant religions coincide, the Catholic pupil loses by the instruction; for though he is not taught anything in direct opposition to his belief, there are so many beautiful subjects ignored by the teacher that the lessons received sink into insignificance beside those which remain veiled beneath the cold neglect of the uncatholic world. It is like the grand masterpiece of a Raphael placed beneath the scrutiny of an unappreciative critic: the prominent figures gain attention, but the minute, the beautiful, the harmonizing effects are lost to those who in their early training were not taught that those parts enhance the beauty of the whole, and cannot be omitted without their loss being felt.

How necessary, therefore, is it that the Catholic world recognize the importance of a training which combines everything essential to living well and happily. How important that par-