

whose use an American Roman Catholic Bishop has urgently recommended, because it out-Herods all other American compilations for schools in *this very respect?*

I yield to no one in my admiration of what is really great and good among the people, and in the institutions of the American Republic; but I protest against importing into this Province, and by threat of losing their share of the public money, enforcing in schools, the use of books which are *excrecent vampires* on the body-politic of the United States.

Has it come to this, that, by the edict of the Council, we are to be obliged for many years to come to import at very high prices most of our school books from New York, London and Paris?

Is this the way to encourage home talent and enterprise, and cultivate among us a much needed spirit of patriotic Nationality?

Would the smallest state in the American Union pursue a *COURSE* so suicidal?

Had the deliberations of the Council been prudently directed with a view to the best interests of the country, there has been ample time since its organization to have had nearly all our ordinary school books prepared by eminent Canadian teachers, and most of them could have been published here in the country at a much lower rate than has to be paid for foreign books.

But instead of encouraging able and successful teachers to aid in preparing first-class books for our public and other schools, as is done elsewhere, and as some of our best educators would have been glad to have done, with little or no pecuniary reward—nearly the opposite course has been pursued; and several of the adopted Canadian school books are so poor by contrast, that many parents and teachers rather than use them, will adopt and cheerfully pay any reasonable price for American books; and that too, quite irrespective of any penalty the Council has power to inflict.

Associations of teachers and individual instructors, have frequently called the attention of the Council to this, and such like important matters; but most of their suggestions have been pretty much unheeded, and hence the present crisis.

As to the obnoxious character of some of the books recommended, it is now intimated by authority, that there are things in Pinnock's C. of the Hist. of Eng., obnoxious to Catholics. Since I only ask what is the common right of both Catholic and Protestant—my reply is, let Pinnock's Historical Catechism be amended in its form of statement concerning the "Gunpowder Plot;" or of any other part of it, or of any other book, justly offensive to the Papists; so that this may no longer serve as an excuse for the continued use of intolerant and seditious books which will, by and by, bear their bitter fruits.

The time, even in Lower Canada, is fast approaching, when the "priests" of no church, will be permitted to have by law, the "exclusive right" to introduce into public schools, what books they please on "religion," (i. e. sectarianism) and that too, whether the "people" will or no;—the time is fast approaching when "ecclesiastics" will not be permitted to control most of the public schools, and teach or have taught therein what they please.