

health of the pupils, or of hygienic causes which, to a professional eye, would sufficiently account for the general listlessness and apathy of the school children. \* \* \* The defects and carelessness in School management to which medical men have called attention, may be classified under the three heads of long lessons, long school hours, and an indiscriminate and thoughtless pressure on all pupils alike." (*Canada School Journal*, Sept. 1880.) The other questions raised we have not space to discuss at present.

In citing the special care taken by Head Teachers of Separate Schools in preparing their pupils for the High School entrance examinations, and the affiliation of a Catholic College with the State University, as evidences of the defectiveness of the Separate School Act and system, and instances of the encouragement given to common education in the superior branches, while separation is strongly insisted upon in the primary schools, we do not question the motives, or impugn the loyalty of any person or persons to the principle of Catholic education. We are neither the admonitor of ecclesiastical authority, nor the director of any man's conscience. We entertain the most profound respect for, and place entire confidence in the Bishops and clergy, who are the appointed guides and admonitors of Catholics in all matters where faith and morals are concerned. But we are free, we presume, to discuss an open question, like this of Higher Education for Catholics, in all its bearings; and cannot allow to pass unchallenged some at least of the comments of the press on the recent affiliation, or "new step," by which, it is exultingly said "higher education for Catholics has taken immense strides forward." Thus, when one journal, largely read by Catholics, asserts with manifest assurance that "all who are capable of forming an opinion about the question know right well that, if degrees be obtained from any other except a State University, their intrinsic worth is at once suspected, because there is no denying the fact, that degrees from a sectarian College which depends upon its attendance for support, are conferred rather in consideration of the time spent at such an institution, than on the knowledge possessed by its graduates,"—we consider it our imperative duty to call upon that journal for whatever evidence he may have in his possession to support such a wholesale charge against denominational Colleges. "All who are capable of forming an opinion" *do not know right well* "that, if degrees be obtained from any other except the State University, their intrinsic worth is at once suspected." On the contrary, most educational authorities admit that the State system, through all its grades, Primary, High School, and University, is more open to fraud than any other. In the last Report of the Minister of Education for Ontario, we find one Public School Inspector, Mr. Knight, alleging that "one of the most mischievous practices is that of teachers promoting scholars before they are fit. In some cases it may be the result of error in judgment,

but generally it is done dishonestly, towards the end of the year, to deceive parents, and secure a re-engagement for the next year." And in the same Report, a High School Inspector, Mr. Marling, declares "there is danger of the *idea* of education being merely *the passing of an examination*; 'pass, honestly, if you can, but pass' is, I fear, too generally the feeling in some of the schools. I need not refer to painful instances of recent frauds in connection with examinations to illustrate this." Even the State University at Toronto is not above suspicion; and if the leading political organs are any index of public opinion, it is plain the University is popularly regarded as a mere political machine. We have no confidence in political machines or political hacks. But we do not propose to meet such a grave charge against denominational Colleges with a counter attack on the State Institution. We prefer to meet it immediately, with a direct challenge for the proofs or authorities—even one citation of fact from "all who are capable of forming an opinion about the question." "Thou shalt not bear false witness" is a commandment which the journal responsible for this charge often, in the exercise of his great charity, recalls to his erring brethren of the press. Well, we would be a charitable brother to him to-day, and remind him that, unless he expects others to do as he *says* and not as he *does*, he must either establish or retract the injurious insinuations he has made against the honor of denominational Colleges, and the standing of their graduates. He owes this to himself, as well as to them, and the cause of Catholic Higher Education.

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#### A THOUGHT FOR MAY-DAY.

When I set myself to consider the tone of mind peculiar to the enemies of the Church, I can discover in it nothing so strange and unnatural, as the bitter feeling which they entertain against one, who is the great benefactress of our race and the most amiable of purely human beings. It is, therefore, no little satisfaction to find that the Marian month introduces to the public a Periodical, which will not fail to assert the rights and glories of the venerable Mother of God. How painful the reflection, that they should ever have been depreciated or called in question! It might be thought a thing incredible, that one, to whom the True the Beautiful and the Good contributed each its special excellence, should be either disparaged or ignored by any man that possesses the powers and sensibilities of man.

A theme furnished by the favourite topic of Mary's prerogatives is always in season, but never more so than in this her own bright month of May. I proceed, therefore, to offer a few thoughts on the place assigned to her in the stupendous work of the Incarnation of the Son of God.