

little instruction given (so little, that in some localities only one in ten could read and write) was imparted by the priests or their adepts on the narrow lines that we know, and if any opposition were raised against their undue influence and authority, it was on the ground of infidelity, and never based on gospel truth. Let us repeat it: no case was known then of a French Canadian having died as a Protestant; the opponent of the ecclesiastical authority would either submit to receive the priest at last, that was the habitual case, or he was supposed to have submitted when he could no longer resist, or he would die as an infidel—and in the eyes of all, to be damned of course. Young protestants among us can scarcely realize what it was then to differ in religious convictions from the great mass and to be singled out as a pervert from the faith. The minds have been largely liberalized, and many liberal minded protestants infer that most Roman catholics in this Province are of that stamp. Let us not deceive ourselves, many of those whose minds have been liberalized are not more religious than they formerly were, and the mass of the people are still indifferent, because as a general thing they have the sort of religion which suits them. They may, and do, criticise some of the doings of the clergy, find fault with their system of education, and some doctrines of the church, but they remain where they are, because it would require of them too great a moral effort, too much heroism to secede from the church of their fathers. He might, if he were alone, but his mother, his sister, his wife, or his daughter have been educated in the convent!

The education of the convent is the main obstacle to the conversion of Roman catholic women of some education in this country. Mariolatry and worldliness, combined with the weakest mental training and the predominance of some artistic teaching, has been and remains, the most serious obstacle to a religious reformation among the educated class. The clerical hierarchy understand this marvelously, from the Pope down to the meanest priest, they all encourage the multiplication of those stupendous buildings where the minds of thousands of the fair sex are irrevocably moulded. Since the educated class, with but few exceptions, could not thus be reached, we had from sheer necessity to address ourselves to the lower and mostly uneducated, assured however of a slow ascension, by the very education we impart. One word more, to our too benevolent Protestants toward Roman catholics, who are at

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