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THE YOUNG PEOPLE.		

Pope Leo That long-looked-for deliverance, the papal encyclical on the Manitoba School Question, has at length been issued. Christmas day was chosen as the date for its publication, by which perhaps it was intended to indicate that the deliverance was one of peace and good-will. The following cabled summary of the document is said to be a trustworthy statement of its contents:

"After speaking in praise of Canada and of the bishops it treats of the law of 1890, and condemns what was then done. It lays down the principles of Catholic education and speaks of the rights of parents. The bishops are praised for resisting the law of 1890. The pope recognizes the fact that something was done to remedy the law of 1890, and says that the Manitoba government were inspired with a love of justice and praiseworthy intention in the decisions they arrived at. He says that the law made to remedy the evil is defective, imperfect and insufficient. The Catholics demand and have the right to demand much more, as the arrangements made may fail of effect owing to local circumstances. Enough had not been done in Manitoba for Catholic education. The bishops must aim at having justice done and must pursue the object with zeal and prudence. There must not be discord, yet as the object does not impose a line of conduct determinate and conclusive, but, on the contrary, admits of several, as is usual in such matters, it follows that there may be on the lines to be followed, a certain number of opinions equally good and acceptable. Let none then lose sight of this rule of moderation, gentleness and brotherly love. Let none forget the respect due to his neighbor, but let all weigh the circumstances, determine what is best to be done and do it in agreement and not without consultation with the bishops. As regards particularly the Catholics of Manitoba the pope expresses his confidence that, God helping, they will win and obtain full satisfaction. This confidence is founded above all on the goodness of their cause, next on the justice and wisdom of those who govern, and lastly on the good will of all Canadians. In the meantime, and until they succeed in their claims, let them not refuse partial satisfaction, especially wherever the law or circumstances or good disposition of the people offer some means of lessening the evil and warding off more danger, it is absolutely expedient and advantageous that they should make use of them and derive from them all possible benefit. Wherever, on the contrary, there is no other remedy, Catholics are exhorted to liberality. The pope speaks of the necessity of highly trained teachers for Catholic schools, and finally warns the press to be decorous and not personal."

What Does it Signify? From the cabled summary given above it would appear that the papal manifesto on the School Question is pacificatory in its tone and purpose. Leo XIII. is generally credited with being a man of more liberal ideas than many of his predecessors in the papal chair, and many of his contemporary prelates in the church. But of course it was not to be expected that he would remit anything of the church's ancient claim to the right of educating its youth. But while the pope condemns the Manitoba law of 1890 as contravening this "right" of the Catholic population and praises the bishops of their zeal, he appears as distinctly not to endorse Archbishop Langevin's policy of scornfully refusing a half loaf because the whole is not obtainable. The pope appears to recognize that Roman Catholic children have rights to education which ought not to be sacrificed by a too severe and obstinate assertion of the church school principle, and he evidently believes that the bishops will have the more success in obtaining recognition for the church's claims in the matter of education, if they temper their zeal with prudence and some measure of charity. The pope expresses his confidence that the Catholics of

Manitoba will obtain full satisfaction, but through what channel this satisfaction is to be sought and obtained, the manifesto appears to be oracular. So far as the cabled summary states, nothing is said about constitutional rights and nothing about pressing the claims of the Catholic minority of Manitoba in the Federal Parliament. On the other hand there appears to be nothing to forbid Roman Catholics to pursue such efforts if they judge it wise to do so. As regards the practical aspect of the question, therefore, it may be said that the encyclical leaves it about where it found it. Still, in its general tone, if not by direct statement, the papal deliverance would appear to discourage any attempts to drag the question again into the arena of Dominion politics or any extreme exercise of churchly influence on behalf of a party for the purpose of securing political results which the bishops might judge to be favorable to their contention in this matter.

British Interests in China. In the absence of other subjects of exciting interest upon which to employ their pens, the London correspondents of American newspapers have had much to say of late about China and the excitement of Englishmen over the situation in the far east. The importance of the subject has been somewhat unduly magnified, it would appear, in the news letters and perhaps also in the thought of the British public. The occupation by Russian war vessels of Port Arthur, a port of Northern China, and of Kiao-Chau, a port farther to the south by Germany, the former by the consent of the Chinese Government, the latter without that consent, are events of which the British public naturally enquires the significance. It is the uncertainty of what understanding between Russia and Germany and what schemes as to further occupation of Chinese territory might lie back of these movements that has caused the mind of England to be disturbed. The British government, however, probably does not share largely in the anxiety which has found expression in the newspaper that the interests of Great Britain in the east are imperilled by the steps recently taken by Russia and Germany. If the theatrical speeches of the German Emperor were to be taken at their face value, one might suppose that the fate of China, if not of the world, was in the hands of his majesty's sailor brother, Prince Henry, and the two war vessels which accompanied him to China. But the fact is that, both on their voyage and in Chinese waters, these German vessels are dependent upon British coaling stations. There is a somewhat influential section of the English press which counsels an active policy on the part of the British government in China. It is advised that arrangements be made with Japan for the joint occupation of the Chinese port of Wei-Hai-Wei, which Japan holds as guarantee of the payment of China's war debt. But the British government is not believed to be anxious for the dismemberment of China and is not ambitious to acquire territory in that part of the world. What she desires is freedom of trade, and she will, of course, make no objections to other European nations entering the field with her on equal terms. She is not likely to oppose Russia having a winter port at Port Arthur, or Germany securing a coaling station on the Yellow Sea. If, however, it shall become evident that it is the design of European Powers to partition China among themselves and control the commerce of the country in their own particular interests, it is to be expected that Great Britain will have a word to say about it. A good deal has been said in recent despatches respecting a prospective coalition of naval forces, on the part of Great Britain and Japan, for the protection of their mutual interests in China. This prospect of Russia and Germany reaping the chief advantage from the war so successfully waged against China by Japan is naturally highly offensive to the people of the Sunrise Kingdom. Japan has a well-equipped and powerful fleet, and an Anglo-Japanese coalition would certainly represent an influence in respect to Chinese affairs that other nations would feel bound to respect.

Winter in the Klondike. The fact that Hon. Mr. Sifton, Minister of the Interior, recently went to Washington to consult with the United States government in reference to the best means of affording relief to the miners of the Yukon country, would appear to indicate that in the opinion of one or both governments there is present or impending distress in that far northern country, which should, if possible, be relieved. The reports which reach us through the daily papers as to the condition of matters at Dawson City and Fort Yukon are very conflicting. One day we read that the food supply is extremely limited and it appears that starvation must be staring the people in the face, and the next day comes a report which indicates a fair degree of comfort among the miners and no apprehension of any great lack in the food supply. Major Walsh and party, bound to Dawson City by way of Taiya and White Pass, expected to reach Fort Selkirk, at the junction of the Macmillan river with the Yukon, about the end of the year. They would then be about 200 miles from Dawson. Letters have been received from the expedition, dated November 22. The information which Major Walsh had at that time did not, apparently, indicate that the condition at Dawson in reference to the food supply was desperate. Some steamers laden with supplies for that point had been unable to get farther than Fort Yukon, and had unloaded there, some 380 miles below Dawson. This had made it necessary for 3,000 or more men to leave Dawson and go to Fort Yukon, where it was believed there was a good supply of provisions; and their going, it was said, had left the Dawson people in a fairly good position to endure the winter's siege. This report as to the condition of affairs in the Klondike region is likely to be more nearly correct than the conflicting reports above referred to. It is certainly to be hoped that it is so, for the hope of getting provisions to the Klondike before the re-opening of navigation appears to be very slight.

Costly Gold. In view of the intense and widespread Klondike fever, it is perhaps not an extravagant estimate that 100,000 men will, between the present time and midsummer, make their way to the Upper Yukon gold fields. In getting there and for what they will carry with them in the way of food supplies, clothing and outfits, these men will expend on an average certainly not less than \$500 each, making an aggregate expenditure of \$50,000,000. If these men remain a year in that country they will require an average of probably not less than \$500 each for necessary supplies which must be brought in from outside. This means that to send 100,000 men to the Klondike and support them there a year will cost \$100,000,000. Probably the most extravagant estimate would not place the yield of all the Upper Yukon gold region for the coming year at a quarter of the sum named. Gold mining in the Klondike under present circumstances is therefore a very expensive business. While a few will make fortunes, a large proportion of those who go will spend their money and their strength for far smaller returns than they could have earned by engaging in the industries on which they are turning their backs. Certain lines of business, however, are benefiting and will continue to benefit largely by the tide of men and capital setting so strongly to the northern gold fields. The transportation companies are reaping a rich harvest, and the Pacific coast cities feel strongly the influence of the boom. The outfitting business at Vancouver and Victoria will be worth millions to the trade of those cities. Edmonton and other points to the east of the Rockies, which are points of departure for overland routes, will also benefit largely. Montreal too is feeling the impulse very appreciably. It is stated that the Klondike business has already been worth \$100,000 to Montreal merchants, and that during the next two months, it will benefit the trade of the city to the extent of half a million dollars. The country at large of course shares more or less directly in the impulse thus given to the business of the cities. It would, however, be much more a matter for congratulation if so much of the money which is thus stimulating the business of the country did not come from the pockets of men who are likely to meet with little but hardship and disappointment in their eager quest for wealth.