all

her intercession. It is, unfortunately

parent regret, that they do not fee

specially drawn towards the Blessed

Virgin. Some converts, too, complain

of this, but usually, unlike their fel-

low Catholic defectives in this mat-

ter, they complain of it in terms of self-reproach, In Catholics from

childhood, this lack of devotion

might be explained by the readiness

with which they take up everything

ecommended to them as a devotion

and thus distract their minds

too common to hear life-long Catholics say, and that without ap-

RAISING A DANGEROUS QUESTION.

·····

subject of "Religion and the some lengthy editorial com-Of course, the paper Schools." dealt with the matter from the American educational point of view, and especially in regard to the Catholic The theory of the "Sun" was simply that it was "a dangerous question," and should not be raised. The "Sun's" article brought forth a great number of letters; all of them were important, and no two of them treated the subject from the same standpoint; but the combination of them all might be considered a pretty exhaustive treatise. It is not my intention to refer in a special manner to all these letters; but there is one which I desire to analyze, for the very good reason that it contains matter applicable in a special to this country and in general to the whole of Catholicity. Before I touch upon that letter. I wish to accentuate a few facts and advance a few arguments on the subject as a

THE CONSTITUTION. - What is said of the Constitution of the Unitother constitutions—especially in new countries. Against the demand of the few years ago the reading the Constitution prohibits the granting of any such request. Yet the Cona cast-iron machine that is inadaptable to the changed conditions of the When the framers of that Constitution separated the American colonies from England, they did so on the broad ground that injustice of a burden upon the people justifies that people in declining to obey the power or abide by the laws that govern them. On that same principle, if it be shown clearly that the Catholics of the United States suffer from a burden of injustice imposed on them by the State, it becomes their right to demand either the amendment of the constitutional laws, or relief from all obligations towards the State. The Constitution itself provides for its own changes by the provision in relation to amendments. so that the State has at its disposal the means of making what the Catholics ask constitutional.

A DANGEROUS QUESTION .- The constitutional aspect of the issue be ing thus made clear, we find that the "Sun" falls back upon the plea, that raises a dangerous question. 'All questions affecting the rights privileges, liberties and powers of the people and of the State, respect ively, are more or less dangerous. If then, it were wrong to raise, or to discuss all questions of vital interest to sections of the people, simply because they were considered to be dangerous, the result would simply be a drifting into the most confused and confusing of all waters-into a regular political chaos. I would not that questions of a vital and ticklish nature should be raised, at all times, in season and out of season; but when a supreme act of political justice depends upon the raising of a question, and when that ques tion affects in a most vital manner the interests of a vast and most im portant factor, or element. of the population, it would be both trary to the spirit of national free dom and that of modern democracy, to allow such a question to remain untouched. Every-day momentous, and dangerous crestions arise, and the solution of them make for the good of the State and the greater liberty of the citizens.

MR. WEBBER'S LETTER.-There are several exceedingly important points raised in this letter, signed by C. A. Webber, of Brooklyn. The first indicates that the necessity religion in the schools is a matter "far above the mere removal of any burden unjustly carried by any Church." Godless schools constitute the danger. As the writer says

'There is a rapidly increasing and widespread alarm less it imperil the Certainly a very prominent. if not the dominant tone in numbers sident was the cry that anarchistic tendsncies flourished because of our godle's schools. Prominent men of than her death-rate, and Naroleon's move us to study with renewed all creeds expressed this sentiment." ideal of the greatest woman, the prest our reasons for confidence

OME time last March the ! This point he develops more fully New York "Sun" published later on. Then, having expressed ments upon the all important admiration for the American educational system, he wishes to point out the paramount danger that it contains, and in so doing he inci- State? Undoubtedly the State. The dentally gives us this piece of information

"The Israelites before the Chris tian era taught only in the family, Rome and Greece had no school system under the State. Under Christianity the Church took the place of the parent. Then the State stepped in. All over Europe wherever the State teaches, it teaches or encourages and aids religion in the schools, except in France, and there it teaches morals, such as they are In Germany and Great Britain opens the school door to all denomi-

EXPEL GOD AND MORALS. -Thus he pictures the unenviable position of the American State education system in the presence of the entire world :-

"In the whole world, our school alone has expelled God and morals. I say expelled because it was not always the theory or principle of the American school that reed States may be equally said of all ligion, or at least the semblance of it, should be barred, witness until a Catholic Church for relief from tax- Bible. It was only through irreconation, or State aid, it is argued that cilable differences as to what should be taught that it was agreed to teach nothing. No one contended stitution may be amended. It is not then that it was not necessary to give some religious or moral tone to the teaching. The danger of omission was not then, is perhaps not yet generally realized."

> WHAT IS THE RESULT?-This is decidedly a pertinent question. parents are relieved by the State of the duty of teaching their children, and if no morals and religion are taught in the State schools, where or from whom are the children to learn either religion or morals, or both? Evidently from no person Here are statistics, cited by Mr. Webber, which are far more significant than some people may imagine He says :-"What is the result with us? Pa

rents relieved of the burden gladly leave all to State. No morals or re ligion in State schools, who teaches either to most children? No one. Statistics tell us that out of our 75,000,000 people, 23,000,000 are churchgoers, Over 50,000,000 must receive no training in morals or religion, nor their children either. Where do they learn the difference between right and wrong. Where the respect due to authority and law until its stern hand is laid on them? Who tells them they shall not steal, they shall not kill or they shall not adultery? The law, when it catches them; The State teaches them to ead, an enlightenment of doubtful value to the State when they have no moral guide, especially in this age of vicious literature and 'vellow journalism' teeming with immorality and dangerous doctrines. It teaches them to write without placing the moral restraint necessary to control their writings, too likely to be percious It teaches them to calculate, alas, too often, to the overreaching of their fellowman. How patert must be the danger to State before it is heeded? How rampant must anarchy become? Bishop Quigley of Buffalo only the other day saved many Catholic workingmen of that city from joining its renks. He was able to do so solely because of their religious and moral training. Perhaps the other 23,000,000 of churchgoers might be similarly restrained But who will restrain the 50,000,000? How many Brooks cases and Bedford district exosures must we have? How many Paterson cases? Are these exceptional? Only in being made public."

IRRELIGION IN FRANCE.-There is an indictment every word of which is absolutely true, and every phrase of which might be developed limitless degree. Turning to the example of France, this sage writer

"France drove her religion out of the schools and still pretends of the spoken and written public re-teach morals. She grinds her teeth murks on the death of our late Pre-in hitterness to-day because her population is melting away before her immorality, her burth rate is less

woman who bears the greatest number of sons for her country, no long-

SAVE THE NATION.—The climax of this admirable piece of reasoning is to be found in the following para-

graph:—
"Your columns have on several occasions lately contained statistics showing that in parts of this country the birth rate was alarmingly decreasing among others than Cath while with them their usual and natural rate continued. Shall we wait for France's fate? Who is interested most, the Churches or the churches cannot reach these 50,000, 000 of people; the State may, in through its schools. Thus alone can it inculcate morals. It must incite the churches to help or it must inevitably perish. It is no longer question of meting out justice to the parochial school and its supporters. It is no longer a question of maintaining the public school system. It is clearly and imminently a question of the preservation of the nation. As such it will be far more dangerous to let the matter rest than to stir it up and settle it right. It is a case of replacing God in the schools, from which he has been driven, or of seeing schools and State go down together. The Constitution must changed. The people must be educated to see the necessity and change

CONCLUSIONS .- I have given too space to Mr. Webber's letter, or rather to extracts from it, that I have but little left for my own comments. Still, it seems to me that the chain of argument is sufficiently complete and solid without additions or amplifications from my pen. It is an appeal to the State to save itself; to call in the necessary aid of Church to protect itself from ruin, from anarchy, rampant immorality, and all the influences that are daily undermining its foundations. It is a clear exposition of the patent fact that the Catholic Church, with her morals, her dogmas, her system of education, and her discipline is destined to be, yet, the sole safeguard, protection and salvation of the American Republic. She drove back the barbaric Goth from the gates of Rome, and rescued Western Europe from the night of savagery that menaced to fall upon she land so will she drive back, and forever check, even beneath the shadow the Capitol, the barbarism that is fast invading the whole Republic and threatening it with the fate of Ancient Rome.

CONFIDENCE IN OUR LADY.

At no time in the history of the Church have the shrines of Our Lady been so frequented and honored as they are to-day. Though Lourdes may be pre-eminent among them for the vast throng of pilgrims who congregate there, and for the marvellous evidences of her favor witnessed there almost daily, it should not make us overlook the thousands of shrines and sanctuaries still more venerable and quite as distinguished for the manifestations of piety and confidence of her clients.

Intelligent people who know no more than the externals of our religion, all admire, if they do not feel moved, to imitate this devotion to the Mother of God. They appreciate the spirit which prompts it, and its influence on our relations to Almighty God. They would blush to repeat the apprehension of an catworn prejudice that this recourse to Our Lady less ns our sense of dependence on God. They have learned to res ect the religious celebrations in her honer by immigrants to bu shores from sunnier climes, extravagant though they may seems Statues of St. Mary the Virgin and church's erected under her paircuare ere no long r uncommon, at least among our Epi copu'in filends. The madernas of pri ter, trely Catholic in s i it. elicit the greatest admiration in our art galleries and th righest prices in our auction rooms This change of sentiment cannot all by exclaimed by the enlightenment or to a of Catholic devotion has had much to do with it, but without a doubt Our Lady's own influence has bee the chief factor in bringing it about

Although Ca'holics do not depend on the attitude of non-Catholics tovards Our Lady for their own devo tion to her, still it is gratifying to witness this gradual but sure conversion of sentiment, and it should move us to study with renewed in

dissipate their emotions so as to be unable to apply them to objects really worthy of devotion. Most of them however, as all the converts really lack devotion to Our Lady, could account for this by the fact either that they were not trained to cultivate it when young, or that in later life it was recommended to them in a way to repel rather than o attract their interest Childlike confidence is the chief thing needed for devotion to Our Lady and this is not easy to acquire in later life without a thorough religious training at home and at school. It is not enough to respect Mary as Mother of Jesus, or to conceive a high regard for her sanctity and prerogatives. Confidence implies trust in the fidelity, belief in the power, and reliance on the readiness of another to help us by granting or obtaining what we need. Confidence in the Mother of God implies a disposition to make known to her the most secret needs and wishes of our hearts, to invoke her aid, to obtain the favor of her powerful intercession. It is the highest expression of our filial love for her to whom we become sons by our brotherhood with Jesus Christ. She loves us with a tenderless no words can express, with a love that is not less for each one personally because our number is multiplied, and her love is so con stant that neither time nor absence or our own indifference or ingratitude can turn her from us. She is all-powerful with God, "full of grace," worthy of every divine fav and able to prove her love obtaining for us His choicest gifts It would be most ignoble in the sons and daughters of such a mother to limit their petitions to personal eeds. The Mother of Christ is Queen in His Kingdom, and exercises the queenly prerogative of intervening in ts affairs. To her Catholic tradiion attributes the glorious distinction of crushing every error, by pre serving the faithful from heretical tendencies, and by overcoming the hostility of all who assail true doc-It needs but a superficial knowledge of the history of Catholic theology to enable us to recall how time and again the fundamental dogmas of religion have been safeguarded by teachings and devotional prac-tices which illustrate the dignity of the Virgin Mary. If to-day we have the singular distinction of believing in the divinity of Christ and in the Holy Trinity, it is due in great measure to the action of the Council of Ephesus in proclaiming Mary Mother of God, to the devotion of the Rosary, and to the invocation of Christian Europe for her aid in the struggles against the Moslem. It is, there fore, a worthy proof of our confidence in her to invoke her for the great needs of the Church, and of those, particularly, whom we desire to have enter its fold .- Sacred Heart Review.

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, District. of Montreal, No. 1,024. Dame Mary Anne Thompson, of the town of St. Paul in the District of Montreal, wife of Alphonse N. Brunet, plaintiff, vs. the said Alphonse N. defendant.

Public notice is hereby given that an action for separation of property has been this day instituted beween the above parties.

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GOMERY. Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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EPIS u If the English-speak.
best interests, they would so
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NOTES

MONEY AND THE I have filled many colum planations of the needs ic press as well as t Catholics have for a 1 have very frequently for latter question is gene over and taken into while those who are in should be so, keep cle mer question. In a lished article entitled tions," in Donahoe's I signed "M. B. O'Sulliv found the expression of densed into a very bri covering almost the that we have so often fore queting from that will say that what we an applicable nature, with great profit by al fellow-citizens in Cana however, briefly tell w to this subject in the writer of that article. in favor of the Federa olic societies, a speake need a press, too, tha after our cause and ca lies in the Philippines, Porto Rico; a press th defender of our rights We want an organ sup Catholics in New Engl will be our champion sions." This is very leaves the impression no adequate Catholic I result is that the write icle in question very justly proves that "the

thoritative information affairs in the Philippin Porto Ricao, collected by Catholic editors-at themselves will never 1 overwhelming proof th of these countries l champions in the Ca never arisen where Ca were menaced that the has not made itself her justice to its co-relig may now add, that wh the Philippine quest United States, equally every important quest Catholic interests and there and in Canada. a something lacking. quently pointed it out.

press that is lackingit is the proper suppor that is wanting. It is the article before us c point. After suggesting secure a great Catholic the addition of a new federation of those ex Catholics have for a ture of money, is th alas! truthful answer tion" how the results be obtained. "Without wprk and enthusiasm won't make a great C This is a truth that yet one that all the go are so loud in their co press, seem to ignore. ney to come from?" great Catholic body?" placed the issue squar public, the writer pro-

"Let us see what th now in a minor way, then predicate the sup give to a movement of