

# INTRODUCTION.

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By HIS GRACE MOST REV. JOHN WALSH, D.D.,

ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO.

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**T**HIS ALMANAC is intended for the instruction and edification of our faithful people, and will, it is to be hoped, be a welcome visitor in every Catholic home in the land. It contains much information on a variety of subjects that have a special interest for the Catholics of Ontario, whilst the reflections written for each month will be found attractive and instructive reading for Catholic families. It is therefore a useful, though unpretentious publication, and deserves generous encouragement and widespread patronage. Cheap publications of this sort are a great want in the homes of our people. Frequently a few costly books will be seen that are seldom or never opened, and are kept for show rather than for use, whilst cheap Catholic publications that would be within easy reach of our people, and that would be at once interesting and instructive, especially to the young, are rarely to be found. This Almanac is gotten up to help in its own way in supplying this want, and we therefore bespeak for it the active interest, sympathy and encouragement of the clergy and the generous support and patronage of the laity. A good book is a blessing to a family; it is a silent but effective friend and benefactor; it teaches and admonishes, it counsels and consoles, it points out the narrow way of duty that should be followed and the broad road of sin that should be shunned; it nourishes the mind with good and holy thoughts, and stimulates to meritorious deeds and to good, virtuous lives. It sows the seed of truth and virtue in the soil of the soul, which eventually grows and ripens into a rich harvest of Christian virtues and good works.

A bad book, on the other hand, is one of the most powerful weapons wielded by Satan in the ruin and loss of souls. There is no more effective means of propagating destructive falsehood and of spreading the blight and poison of evil than a book that is bad, because of the falsehood it inculcates, the attacks it contains against the Church of Christ, the lessons of immoral