

PERVERSION OF PROTESTANT PUPILS IN CONVENT SCHOOLS.

The Rev. B. F. Austin, B. D. principal of Alma Ladies' College, Thomas, Ont., has written two letters to the *Toronto Mail* on Protestant girls in Roman convent schools in Ontario. It may well serve as a note of warning to Protestant parents in the Maritime Provinces, who are encouraging this method of proselytism by Rome by sending their daughters to convent schools.—Ed.

"Roman convent schools are planted in almost every city of Ontario, and they derive from one-third to one-half of their patronage from Protestant families. They outnumber the Protestant boarding schools five to one, and in proportion to the population are twenty-five times more numerous. The writer is led to believe there are at present one thousand Protestant girls in the convent schools of Ontario. These schools are organized and carried on as

INSTRUMENTS OF PROSELYTISM.

Father Chiniquy has said that in Quebec "seven out of every ten Protestant girls in the convent schools become converted to Romanism; two are weakened in their faith, and only one escapes unhurt." Assuming that in Protestant Ontario the percentage is reversed, that would give a hundred converts to Romanism yearly in the Province, and a hundred young women converted to-day means in twenty years many whole families added to the Roman Church. The chief reason of the extensive Protestant patronage these schools receive is doubtless the low rates for board and tuition which you obtain in them. The schools are organized for purely church purposes, and rates are put at the smallest margin of profit. The duty of Protestants is to take a lesson from Roman Catholics and support their schools without any regard to financial profit; let them be made more efficient, and, if possible, just as cheap, as the convent schools.

Statistics of the conversions to Romanism are not available, but the fact is notorious. "Conversing last week with a lady of my acquaintance on this subject, she instantly recalled three young ladies who were thus lost to Protestantism." In Toronto convent are four veiled nuns who were formerly Protestants. "No one who considers the vast number of Protestant girls in these schools, their daily associa-

tions and surroundings, and the known zeal and devotion of the good sisters who manage them, can doubt for a moment that a good percentage of the Protestant pupils will go over to Rome, and a much larger percentage be weakened in their religious convictions." A lady had sent her two girls to a convent school, and, when they were removed, she discovered that, notwithstanding the promise of non-interference with the religious convictions of Protestants, the younger girl had been crammed with the prayers and teachings of the Roman Catholic faith from her entrance into the school, and was so far converted as to be a firm believer in penances and

TO IMPOSE THEM UPON HERSELF!

The number of these schools in Ontario is altogether beyond the normal wants of the Catholic population. Why are so many built? A gentleman, for many years a priest, and educated at the college of the Propaganda at Rome, said to the writer: "They are built and managed on this continent chiefly for purposes for proselytism. In European countries they are conducted on quite a different basis, the rates being high, and aristocratic patronage among the Roman Catholics most sought after. In this country they are made cheap and popular to attract and win over Protestants to their faith." Special attention is shown to Protestant pupils, and Protestant girls of a certain class are reported to stand well for winning the honors and prizes bestowed; this is one of many surface indications of the spirit and aim of their work."

WHAT DOES GOD SAY.

"I have different views." This is a common rejoinder upon the lips of men with whom we converse on the subject of Christianity. When we urge the Word of God upon their thoughts, they calmly brush the Scripture aside and say: "O yes, that is all very well, but I have different views." It would be well for these persons to remember that it is the Word of God and not their views, however honestly entertained and held, which will "judge them in that day." It is not what *men think*, but what *God says* which constitutes the rule and law of life. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."—*Works and Warnings.*