

themselves; but there are other men of high sound and of flaming professions of unbounded liberality, who, on this subject, display the most virulent hostility to Catholic rights, and who would arrogate to themselves the sole power of direction and dictation in the education of our youth. These men would, perhaps, be offended, should we denounce them as intolerant bigots. And yet, from their conduct, what other designation do they merit? Our work, however, is simple and obvious, in all things to insist on the supremacy of principle. Religion, and religion alone, of all sublunary things, is the only absolute and unmixed good, and no other earthly consideration can come in competition with it. The system of education, then, that would exclude the holy teaching, and sanctifying influences of religion, is not adapted to form the young minds of the children of Catholic parents. It could offer no substitute for this pearl above all price, compared with which every earthly accomplishment

"Loses discountenanced and like folly shows,"

while on the other hand we find from the experience of ages, and the testimony of all history, that the acquisition of the most sublime sciences, of the most profound philosophy of the excellence of artistic skill, and of professional knowledge has ever been successfully connected with the teachings of the Catholic Church: guided by its laws and animated by its spirit, they can only prove of salutary advantage for the formation of character—the promotion of rational enjoyment—the progress of social improvement and the peace and security of society. But separated from religion and its holy law, all these earthly pursuits in art and science are vague and unsatisfactory

"Miserable comforters are they all,"

and having no permanently distinctive tendency, too often degenerate into agencies of evil. Impressed with these solemn convictions, it can no longer be a question why Catholics should take a more than ordinary interest in the educational laws of the country and why they should be prepared to offer the most determined resistance to the perpetuation of a system which strikes at the root of all they hold sacred in religion, and indispensable in morality. To the daring and insulting dictation which has been too long practiced without effectual opposition, further submission must be considered criminal, and the time has arrived when every friend to justice, no matter what may be his peculiarity of religious belief, will, we trust, honestly co-operate with us for obtaining the repeal of a partial and oppressive law, and the substitution of a measure honestly intended, and practically calculated to remove jealousies and mistrust, and to ensure the general confidence, by a faithful extension of equal privileges to all. We call, then, on the administration and the Legislature for early and honest action on this vital question, and for such decision as may fully, fairly, and without mystery or room for misapplication, as hitherto, meet the wants and satisfy the reasonable demands of every class of the community. But first and above all, let the Catholics be true to themselves, strong and immovable in the rectitude of their cause, and the victory will be theirs. The might, the wealth of a Tyrant power, could not crush out the Church of their fathers, nor extinguish the light of faith, in their native land; and will their descendants in Canada be stigmatized by voluntary degradation? No, "they who would not allow themselves to be trampled on by the lion—will not tamely submit to be devoured by the wolf." They will nobly vindicate their name and race on this trying emergency. The children which God has given them, it appears are no longer their own, but must be surrendered to the unhallowed nurture of such men as the Hon. member for Kent, and the lately rejected candidate for St. James's Ward in this City. But the responsibility to Heaven still remains, from which these daring and profane dictators cannot relieve the Catholic parent for the sacred deposit committed to his care.

The pastors and the people, then, have their allotted duties to perform. These duties they clearly, perfectly understand; they require not—they solicit not—but distinctly repudiate and reject all foreign teaching and extraneous interference; and these duties they will perform faithfully and fearlessly, with one heart and with one soul, until their rights, civil and religious, are clearly acknowledged and fully and comprehensively established. Simple equality with their fellow-subjects is their sole and righteous demand; and while solemnly disclaiming all interference with the privileges of others, for which

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