

than all their bodily suffering, were it even the pangs of hunger, or cold, or disease. It is, that innocent, defenceless souls, the offspring of Catholic parents, or those baptized into her fold, are cheated of their heavenly birthright ; that they are either forced from her by open violence, or through unjust legislation they are committed to other than Catholic institutions ; that, under plea of making them more useful and more tolerant citizens, they are either morally or physically constrained to receive instruction in schools where, to say the least, the Church's maternal authority is ignored, but where oftentimes they are insidiously weaned from her, and little by little rendered indifferent, or made to look upon her as the mother of bigotry, intolerance and ignorant superstition.

If to convert sinners and to confirm the faithful in the practice of virtue be a work most pleasing to God, it is even more meritorious to spend oneself for the salvation of the young. The adult Christian has the full use of his reasoning powers, and has already acquired some experience of life, it is, therefore, possible for him, though difficult at times, to steer clear of the dangers which surround him. But the condition of children is far different. Poor unsuspecting souls, ever ready to confide in the first come, quick to do any generous act, but, alas, just as quick to learn evil, are they not to be pitied, nowadays especially when so much is done, wittingly or unwittingly, to pervert them ?

An active apostleship, with childhood for its object, is not only the most fruitful in results, but for the most part the easiest to prosecute successfully. Their docile minds, fresh from the hands of their Maker, have not yet received precociously the impress of vice, and may be fashioned at will.

It was for this reason, and account of the loving sympathy their helplessness awakened, that those numerous institutions sprung up, and continue to be so much encouraged everywhere by the Church : those foundling asylums, day-nurseries, kindergartens, orphanages, primary and second-