

Roman Catholic countries are thrusting out the Priesthood from all interference with education?

We look upon the Pastoral as a fair warning. It distinctly tells the Legislature and Government the extent of the Roman Catholic demand, "nothing more," "nothing less." It leaves them to infer from the past the consequence of refusal. It is a fair warning to you, and seems to take for granted that your attachment to your Free Education is a dream, or that the patriotic sentiment is so dead amid the contentings of party, that not a finger will be raised in opposition to priestly dictation, and that at a sign from Rome you and your Rulers must meekly submit. We say, "a sign from Rome," for it is a fact which the Pastoral acknowledges that the Bishops are acting under directions from Rome. To-day the Government of Quebec acknowledges the supremacy of the Pope over their action in the civil erection of the Parish of *Notre Dame de Grace*, in obedience to a command from Rome!

To you, Protestants, the Pastoral is a plain proof that there are among you, men, enjoying all the rights and privileges of British citizens, yet laboring to compel the Governments of these Provinces to acquiesce their legislation in accordance with the will of a foreign Potentate whose interference in legislation, even in Rome, Roman Catholics themselves repudiate. These men indirectly teach opposition to laws conferring equal civil rights with their Protestant fellow citizens, simply because those laws do not give them a supremacy which would be fatal alike to civil and religious liberty; and you have to expect their continued efforts till your Educational Institutions are overthrown, and there is really "nothing more" to demand.

The Pastoral throws down the gauntlet to the Protestantism of the Provinces, and shows the preposterous nature of the demands, and the arrogance of their tones we cannot but believe that that gauntlet will be promptly taken up by you. It is an

open declaration of war, and a fair warning at least on the part of the Bishops that it will be "war to the knife."

We earnestly call upon you for instant action—calm and determined, and such as will proclaim your fixed resolve to stand by Free unsectarian Education—and as will show the Government that you are resolved to have no tampering with the School Law in the interest of any religious party. Let your Representatives clearly understand what your wishes are, and take care that the assailants of your Educational Institutions are taught that they have miscalculated the times, and misunderstood the character of the Friends of Free Education when they imagined that you would stand tamely by and witness the destruction of a system which, with all its minor defects and culpable mismanagement, has produced such beneficial results, and which forms the basis of your country's future prosperity.

We are confident that you will not hesitate to "step to the front" in the hour of danger. You must save your country from foreign dictation, and protect your Educational Institutions from destruction. By private and public influence you must resist any man or class of men, who would lay unhallowed hands upon your sacred rights and liberties.

We know that there are among us time-servers, who for their own private ends will not hesitate to sacrifice your rights, but once and forever you must teach them a lesson which will be a warning for all time to come.

As the friends of our *Free Unsectarian School System* we confidently appeal to you for prompt and decided action,

And respectfully subscribe ourselves, the Synod's Committee on Public Education.

W. McCULLOCH, D.D., *Convener*.
A. MCKNIGHT,
P. G. MCGREGOR,
JOHN FORREST,
C. B. PITBLADO,
ROBERT MURRAY.