

He came on earth to establish. We are all living members of that Church, and everything that menaces her welfare should affect us most sensibly. On this subject we cannot speak in a more touching manner than does the Pastoral Letter of the Fathers of the Council. It remains simply for us to impress this point on your attention.

The question of education is also one which should deeply interest us all. There is nothing of greater importance than that the children of the Faithful should be reared up in a Christian manner. The system of mixed schools is full of danger for the peace of families and the future of the country. It is to the faith of the Church, more than to aught else, that we owe our strength, and it is she alone who can maintain Canada in a holy independence, which other nations may well envy. Let us, therefore, unite our efforts to alienate from ourselves the dangers which threaten us, and to defend the honor of our country as well as that of our holy religion. With the Fathers of the Council, We cannot too deeply impress on you the necessity of warning parents against the danger of exposing the eternal interests of the children with which God has blessed them,—under the pretext of advancing their material interests, which should never be placed in the balance against their eternal welfare.

Another subject is brought under your attention in the Pastoral Letter of the Fathers of the Council. You should be careful to instruct your people on their duties in the time of elections. The honor of the Catholic body is deeply involved in this question. The Faithful should be taught that it is a grievous fault to vote against their consciences, and that it is a shameful as well as a dishonorable act to sell a vote for money, or any other equivalent consideration. Catholics who render themselves guilty of this crime are unworthy of appearing in the House of God, for their act is calculated to cast a slur and a disgrace upon the whole Catholic body, and to expose their religion and their country to dangers which we are all interested in warding off.