

3. — Leo XIII defines the Catholic school, that which is held by "Catholic teachers, whose readers and text-books are approved by the Bishops," and whose entire system harmonizes with the religious wants and duties of the young pupils. Without these conditions, the school exposes Catholic children to the gravest dangers, and it is a sovereign injustice (the word is of Leo XIII) to force fathers of families to expose thereto those whose care the Author of nature has confided to them. "When Catholics demand — and it is their duty to thus demand and claim — that the teaching of the masters agree with the religion of their children, they make use of their own right. And nothing could be more unjust, than to place them in the alternative either of letting their children grow up in ignorance or of casting them into a sphere which constitutes a manifest danger for their souls. "

PART SECOND

APPRECIATION OF ALL THE EVENTS RELATING TO THE MANITOBA SCHOOL-QUESTION FROM THE PASSING OF THE LAW OF 1890 TO THE PRESENT DAY

1 — Since the law of 1890 constituted a real injustice towards the Catholic minority of Manitoba, it was the duty of the Bishops to take the defence of that minority. They did so, and Leo XIII is pleased to give them praise therefor in the following terms: "Wherefore, when the new law inflicted a blow on Catholic education in the province of Manitoba, it was your duty, Venerable Brethren, to protest openly against the injustice and against the injury that it had received, and the manner in which you have fulfilled that duty is a striking proof of your common vigilance and of a zeal truly worthy of Bishops. And although, on this point, each one of you meets with a sufficient approbation in the testimony of his conscience, know nevertheless that We add thereto Our assent and Our approbation. For those things which you have sought, and still seek to guard and defend, are truly sacred. "

2 — All honest men, all Catholics especially, should likewise have been united in defending a cause the importance of which cannot suffer comparison with mere political interests. Unfortunately party-spirit intervened to prevent the fulfilment of that sacred duty and the Holy Father bitterly deplores it.