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National Republican

MONDAY MORNING ..... MAY 20, 1867

LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

PASTORAL LETTER OF THE Fathers of the Tenth Provincial Council OF BALTIMORE.

The pastoral letter of the Most Rev. Archbishop Spalding, and the suffragan prelates of the province of Baltimore, at the Tenth Provincial Council, (which closed its session on Sunday, the 5th inst.,) to the clergy and laity of the province, is a document of great importance, and of interest to all classes.

The letter is upon some of the most important subjects that engaged the attention of the Council during their recent deliberations. The first subject is on

EDUCATION.

The clergy are expected to remember their obligations to see that the children of their flocks. Upon this point the letter says:

"Bitter experience convinces us more and more of the necessity of our schools, and the exclusion of a religious training, is not only most disastrous consequence, but is directly at variance with the wishes of parents, who would be as unhappy to see their children deprived of the religious training of the Church, as they would be at the prospect of their being entirely neglected by their parents. Since the civil war, many children have wandered away from the faith of their fathers, and have joined the ranks of the infidel among the most active and clamoring for the rights of humanity, and in the name of freedom, in the name of God, for the sake of our country, which, expects them to be, and, in fact, are, ready themselves to the extinction of their offspring.

"The clergy are instructed to establish parochial schools as soon as practicable in the cities, towns and even in the country districts, where they may not yet have the means to build churches, or to have those schools in charge of the numbers of religious communities who make the vocation of teaching their special duty, and give them temporal support and encouragement.

"Under this head the letter continues as follows:

"We cordially believe that provision for the education of the children of the Church, is one of the most important duties of the clergy, and we must not rest until we see the schools established in every parish.