



## Comments of the hour.

The French government, true to its program, has presented at the reopening of the parliamentary sessions a truly diabolical bill, the only provision of which is that, hereafter, the parents of children attending the public schools will have no legal right to prosecute such teachers—and there are many of them—as revel in insulting and ridiculing in the school room the Faith of the little ones. Neither the parents nor the civil authorities will find it possible to impose on the teachers the selection of unprejudiced manuals of history and sound compendiums of ethics. These will be compiled and distributed by the academic authorities dependent, in this matter, on the government alone. A heavy fine together with a nice vacation within the prison walls shall be the punishment meted out to the recalcitrant fathers and mothers who will dare boycott the school in sign of protest. True, the bill gives Catholic parents the right of appeal against the government, but what can the poor father of a family do against such a powerful bureaucracy and centralized monopoly as the French Government?

The whole meaning of this persecution is that a set of atheistic philosophers are trying, in connivance with the masonic lodges, to wholly eradicate the Faith from their unfortunate country and are taking to that end an infallible means, viz: the establishment of a compulsory atheistic system of education. Neutrality in the school has been heretofore the shibboleth of the successive French cabinets; but now, that the present administration has thrown off the mask, the new bill ought to bear, as its official mark, the hideous face of the Devil who has until now concealed his infernal identity in the long saturnalia of French politics. His Satanic Majesty should, from now on, preside in person at the cabinet meetings, as he would have no difficulty in recognizing in Clemenceau *e tutti quanti*