

to co-operate with the ultra-democratic party. Are the priests conscious of having embarked in a common cause with the demagogue, and that they must, like him, derive their influence from courting the passions, prejudices, and ignorance of the people? If so, one method alone remains for combating both—the removal of ignorance by a well-organized government system of schools, neither under sectarian or ecclesiastical control, nor under the management of any one political party.

In the city, the New Englanders appeared to me to have lost political weight since we were last here. To show me how seriously the priests interfere in their domestic affairs, a bookseller told me that he had just lost the services of a young shopman who, although a Protestant, like his father, found that his mother, a Catholic, considered it her duty never to let him rest till he adopted some other profession. The priest had told her that he was constantly handling dangerous and heretical books in his store, with which his mind must be contaminated.

In many of the large towns, in the valley of the Mississippi, the Catholics have established such excellent schools, and enforced discipline so well, that the children of Protestants have been attracted there, and many have become proselytes; but I heard of still more Catholics who have become converts to Protestantism, and I can not but believe that Romanism itself will undergo many salutary modifications under the influence of the institutions of this country.

I made an excursion with Messrs. Buchanan, James, Carley, Clark, and Anthony, to Mill Creek, a tributary valley of the Ohio, where loam and gravel, with fresh-water shells, overlies a deposit of leaves and fossil stems of trees. The shells are of recent species, and the layer of vegetable matter of the same age as that which contains the bones of the mastodon, elephant, megalonyx, and other extinct animals at Big Bone Lick, in Kentucky.* I afterward saw in the city some beautiful collections of Silurian fossils from the blue limestone, and was struck with the dimensions of some of the trilobites of the genus *Isoteles*, the most

* See ante, p. 194, and "Travels in North America," vol. ii. pp. 62, 65, 67.