

School then is assuming a new importance; it is replacing the home in many young lives. And school will keep on growing in importance so much so, that the five-hours-a-day school for eight months of the year will soon be a thing of the past. The cry is now for the maintenance of school all the year round, for increasing instead of decreasing school hours, and for opening the school playground under the direction of a supervisor during out-of-school hours. Soon we shall have what practically amounts to the eight or ten-hour school open all the year. Hence the new move in Toronto to throw open certain playgrounds and schools at nights and on Saturdays is quite in keeping with the general trend of events.

"What are we coming to?" cries the ultra-conservative. "You are ruining the manly independence of our citizens by doing too much for them. Education is the concern of the family and not of the state." We British people have great sympathy with this point of view, but the answer is obvious. The state, for its very existence, cannot afford to allow children to grow up in ignorance; and it cannot allow them to suffer and be neglected, no! not even to teach neglectful parents a well-merited lesson on the value of independence!

The St. George's Creed.—At this serious time when the Empire is battling for its life, when some of our most cherished beliefs have shown themselves mere illusions, when it is so difficult to believe in the perfectability of human nature, it gives one great relief to turn to the noble writings of John Ruskin. How fearless in their outspokenness they are! What a hatred of the mean, the ugly, the sham and the ignoble they show! These are the writings that have helped to make the British nation of to-day—the nation that is showing the world how to be calm and brave in the face of great adversity. And the essence of Ruskin's teachings is found in the St. George's Creed. The creed is found in *Fors Clavigera*, Letter, LVIII, undated, but issued for September, 1875. All members signed the creed before being admitted Companions of the St. George's Guild. It runs as follows. Let it speak for itself.

THE ST. GEORGE'S CREED.

1. I trust in the living God, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things and creatures visible and invisible. I trust in the kindness of His law, and the goodness of His work. And I will strive to love Him, and keep His law, and see His work, while I live.

2. I trust in the nobleness of human nature, in the majesty of its faculties, the fulness of its mercy, and the joy of its love. And I will strive to love my neighbour as myself, and, even when I cannot, will act as if I did.