

was but one literature and that for the most part blurred and misinterpreted in a thousand ways, and conveyed in a tongue understood only by a caste. Men trained and moulded and taught under conditions such as these were the constructors of the system of public education, which essentially has been inherited by the mother-country and some other parts of Europe.

In the old historic institutions for the training of the adult mind modifications have been admitted from the necessity of the case. But in the ancient foundations for the education of the very young, and in later institutions for the same purpose formed on the antique model, it is only now that the public voice in the parent-state, is succeeding in obtaining the needed changes and improvements.

In the great republic to the south of us, in our own country, and in the vast domains of Great Britain, in Australia and India, the required modifications in the inherited system of public education have for many years been admitted, have for many years been maturing and advancing in accordance with the wants of the era and of the new regions which our race is filling. The reclamations against change in this direction heard through the instrumentality of a lately published Report, have consequently filled with amazement the English-speaking world, outside the limits of the old island-home itself. The advance made by ourselves in respect to this matter, and the advance made by the common mind of the British isles on the same subject, beyond the point attained by many in possession of power and office in influential foundations of learning were not before realized.

It is a matter of congratulation then which it is legitimate on the present occasion to notice, that henceforward in the home as well as colonial empire of Britain, the system of general instruction for each young generation as it springs up will embrace, as necessary instruments of training and just human development, departments of science which, while they are indispensable for the due understanding and effective use of earth and the things of earth, lead likewise, under wise direc-

tion, to a real acquaintance with God.

Gradually thus will well-disposed men, the obscure as well as the conspicuous, the artizan in his workshop, the labourer in the field, the employe of humblest grade in the manufacturing, engineering, commercial and other undertakings of modern times, be guided, even from childhood, to views of the round world and of all that therein is, surpassing the imaginations of the wisest sages of old. Habitually will men, lowly men, be thus led to behold in the heavens the handy-work of God in a sense and with an insight which never entered into the heart of enraptured seer to conceive.

From a study, even slight, of the physical structure of the globe, the ideas of progression and gradation, of order and law divine, will be ingrained with the earliest impressions. Chemistry, though known only in its elements, will furnish a standing proof that over nothing does chance preside; that in the composition of even the impalpable and invisible, number and measure are observed with a precision and accuracy which wholly transcend all conceivable skill of man.

In the frame-work of ordinary animals and of man, internal, external, the mind will be trained from the time of its first young awakening, to see that which tells of God. God will be seen in the discoveries there of preadaptations of organism to sphere of action, of means to ends; in the discoveries there of contrivances for the discharge of function, of provision for duration, of an apparatus of admonition, delicate and sensitive, instantly warning against whatever is opposed to health and length of days.

The petal of the flower, the leaf of the forest-plant, the feather of the bird, the insect's wing, the scale of the fish, the coating of the shell—revealing their several latent glories by the aid of art—will be demonstrations of Him who hath so clothed, so perfectly finished, even the minutest, the most imperceptible of his works.

Now let not him that heareth say that it is beneath us here to entertain such thoughts as those which have been suggested. Let not him that heareth say that such matters are outside the circle of Christian teaching.