

and sentiments. They have banished God from the laws and machinery of government; they have banished Him from the conscience of the people, who, as is their wont, have adhered to the tradition thus established. For forty years the aim of official persons has been to withdraw the people from the influence of religion: it was a consequence of the revolutionary principle—nay, almost a necessity of its system of government. At the present moment the working-class in France is in the hands of a few fanatical leaders, who proclaim aloud their hatred of religion, and take no pains to conceal their hatred against society.'

'The press of Italy are continually reminding us how they are succeeding in that unfortunate country. In one of them I had lately read: 'The religious teaching associations have been banished from the schools, and religion from the chairs of the universities. Even in Rome university professors do not believe in christianity, and the instruction they give their pupils is in harmony with their own belief. In the secondary or middle-class schools no provision is made for the teaching of religion. The Bolletina Officiale of the Minister of Public Instruction, in every secondary contains the time-table, but in this time-table no time is marked for religious instruction. It may not be amiss to contrast with this evidence of neglect the statistics of suicide for the year 1874. In that year the number of suicides in Italy reached the enormous figure of 1,015, being an increase of 40 on the previous year, 1873.' It is greatly to be feared that the irreligious character of the education prevalent in Italy at present, will have a tendency to increase the number of suicides. When a man is devoid of religion he is more likely to seek death when trouble comes, than to bear it patiently, trusting in God.

'From all the statements and facts which I have produced, it is notorious and undeniable that the public irreligious schools in all countries where they exist, are the hot beds where immorality and crime have their origin. Young persons of both sexes grow up there without any religious impressions, and the more learned they are, the more fit to perpetrate the most wicked and horrible crimes. Hence we find society everywhere pestered