

a certain extent; and, as a natural corollary, that it may withhold from them, until they attain a certain educational standard, all positions of trust under government, and even the right to exercise the franchise. That the State should afford pecuniary assistance only to such children as are not provided with pecuniary means to obtain the requisite education, and should permit the guardians of children receiving this assistance to select their own schools when possible. That the State should aid all schools, denominational or otherwise, materially aiding the cause of education of an approved character, which afford opportunities for acquiring education to any child, without interfering with the liberty of conscience of such child or of its natural guardian. That the State should only form schools of its own, in cases where the particular community will not supply the educational need; and that, in such instances, every effort should be made to meet the religious ideas of such community as to the character of the education in its schools. A general system of government inspection of all schools receiving State aid, with regard to the intellectual acquirements of the pupils, would also be desirable if not essential; and any effort on the part of the State, calculated to stimulate educational progress and elevate the intellectual standard, should meet with universal favor. That a change will ultimately be effected in the generally existing condition of national education we most firmly believe, but we think that reliance should be placed rather upon the efforts of the large and progressive bodies of Christians, in which the life of the respective nations really lies, than upon those of the various legislatures. Nor do we think that America will be behind hand in the work of religious education. The wise men of the west will rise at last, and, like the eastern magi, will acknowledge that both intellectual and spiritual wisdom culminate in the infant of Bethlehem.