

ciple if interpreted soberly and with moderation, might do no harm. They might, for instance, regulate the expenditure, fix the salaries of teachers, and appoint the curriculum for the schools; but they must not strain and exaggerate their rights. They must not claim a supreme and complete control that shall crush other rights far more sacred than theirs. Up to the present time, since, we may say, the foundation of Christianity, the right of parents to give their children the religious education which they themselves had received from their fathers, has been considered most sacred and inviolable. When this principle was once apparently violated in the Montara case in Italy a few years ago, there was an outcry throughout Europe. Now, Mr. Birrell's bill practically exterminates this most sacred right of parents in order that a section of the people may have supreme control in England's schools. The Lords have endeavored to preserve this sacred right and it is argued that they were not justified in so doing. Were they, or were they not? The answer is evident.

I said a section of the people, because the Nonconformists who demand this supreme control, by no means represent the whole body of the ratepayers. The Denominationalists have built schools in which they wish the religious convictions of parents to be respected, and their schools by far outnumber those of the undenominationalists. The last return from the board of education gives the following figures: 14,140 denominational schools with accommodation for 3,705,000 children, as against 6,140 council schools with accommodation for 3,172,000 children. These schools built by the Denominationalists out of their own pockets, tell us what their mind is. It is then a section of the people who are demanding and insisting that the rights of parents shall be abolished, and that the education of all children shall henceforth, be regulated by the will of this section. Now, of all the characteristics of the English people, their intense love of liberty is one of the most prominent. For over a thousand years they have been its champions. Can it be supposed, then, that in the present instance, two of the most notable portions of England's population, the Anglicans and the Catholics, will give their consent, to be robbed of their religious freedom by this section? Most decidedly not, and the Lords have seconded their protest. Were they justified or were they not? Let the Liberal Government go to the country and they will find out.

The Lords have been accused of trying to remove education entirely from popular control, and place it in the hands of the De-