

We cannot here enter into the merits of the controversy, but it is obvious that the candidature of a gentleman upon whom even a cloud of suspicion rests, is, to say the least of it, unfortunate. This is not the case of opposing political partisans who may accuse and be accused of all manner of political sins without their personal character being impeached. An educator of youth ought to be above reproach. The very fact of his having been charged, and that persistently, with a course of conduct that requires elaborate defences to explain it, should be a reason why a candidature should not be pressed; for this is not the kind of accusation that dies away when the heat of contest is over. In politics, no matter what may have been said during a contest, the moment a member is elected excitement subsides and animosities abate; but in this case a certain number of persons will feel, rightly or wrongly, that the moral sense of teachers has been outraged, and this, as we know by experience, is not a matter that will gradually die away, but will rather become more and more irritating and embittered as time passes on. We repeat, the matter is unfortunate for the interests of the common school system of education, which has had often enough to repel the unreasonable accusation of godlessness, and has all the more reason to guard against the least imputation of wrong on the part of prominent officials.

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What wonderfully fine weather this country is enjoying this summer! A late and cold spring has often grown into a charmingly fine and beautiful summer, rich in promise of abundance, and the present year has furnished another illustration of the rule. Divine Providence is favoring this land, and not this only, but the grain-growing regions of the earth generally. Everywhere the land is bringing forth abundantly, and the present harvest of the world will probably be the most productive ever known. While enjoying the gifts, would that we remembered the GIVER!

Two recent efforts to effect an alteration in the Education Act in England afford interesting illustrations of the exclusive, dog-in-the-manger spirit which actuates certain Churches, more especially the Established, in dealing with this Education question. The discussions which have arisen on these efforts afford information upon the extent of population over which the Act is operative and its general character. A very influential deputation has lately waited on the Minister of Education to induce him to prevent the School Boards opening new schools at a less fee than the average of the neighborhood, or any newschool where the local accommodation is already sufficient. These propositions, apparently so fair and prudent, are in reality a protest against the State carrying out the education of the people, except by means of the schools of the religious denominations. As the wealth and social prestige of the Established Church has enabled it to cover the land with parochial schools, the effect of prohibiting a Board School being erected to give education on cheaper terms, where one already existed, would be to perpetuate the monopoly of popular education so long enjoyed by the dominant Church, and render the wider diffusion and improved character of the education given by its agencies contingent upon the zeal or temper or jealousy or superstition of the clergy alone. No one familiar with English parochial life can disparage the efforts of many of the State Church clergy in the cause of education. Raising funds for and administering the affairs of the Parish School is usually the heaviest burden of the clergy, and they are left to a very great extent without the moral support and sympathy of their well-to-do flock. Such a condition of affairs is not calculated to give that energy and vigor which are absolutely required in school administration, especially amongst a population who do not appreciate education, and are naturally prone to be suspicious of clerical power and influence. Whether it is the duty of the State to provide cheap education for the people is a very debatable question indeed. It is surely no credit to a nation that a large