

It seems that the main object of the association was to guard the Roman Catholic religion against the encroachments of the Protestant. But as you very well observed, religious reforms were not suggested or brought to pass by illiterate and ignorant people. These reforms were the result of a profound investigation of the contents of the holy scriptures. Every one that can read them interpreting them in his own way will form an opinion of his own which may more or less deviate from the religious tenets which he adopted in his infancy on the credit of those who taught him. And indeed those tenets are so far above the human understanding that they present a vast field for controversy. He who can read one book can read another, and who will vouch for his reading none but those favorable to the cause you espouse, and who can answer that chance or design shall not put into his hand such books as might make him swerve from your principles?

The same may be said of political opinions. Of late years they have undergone a great alteration. How did it come to pass? Were the new doctrines promulgated by ignorant people? Certainly not.

In fine you argued on a third inconvenience resulting from that petty instruction decorated with the fine name of education. You very properly represented, that the limited instruction in view tended only to instil pride in the minds of those who are to receive it. Looking on their parents with a kind of shame, children so instructed will scorn their humble pursuits. Fancying themselves capable of filling the highest situations, nothing can satisfy their vanity but trade on a grand scale or the learned professions. Thus they will give up the plough, withdraw their assistance from their aged parents, flock to the towns and there these new fangled gentlemen will become half starving tradesmen, empty bagged lawyers, and doctors without patients. Will their morals be thereby amended? That I question very much. Temptations of every kind are much more in the way in the towns than in the country.

More and a great deal more might be said on that subject, but I have perhaps already trespassed the limits of your indulgence. I must therefore conclude and if this communication finds admittance in your miscellany I shall from time to time continue this correspondence with you. Wishing you success I remain

Your's Sincerely

F. G. H.

We accept with gratitude the proffered assistance of the above correspondent, and feel happy that our ideas on education and instruction are not peculiar to ourselves. It is not however on account of that coincidence of opinion that we court his correspondence, for any contradictory one would be received with the same