

Simplification is the first step towards that sound reform in our public seminaries which shall abate the incompetency and discontent now dividing society in Europe and America. Every child has the inalienable right to be taught in the necessities of public education. Reading, writing and arithmetic are these necessities. These should be as free as the air we breathe. The past has abundantly shewn that with these every child, rich or poor in worldly circumstances—if the right material be in him—will force his way into even the higher learnings and the highest positions in society, and become a brave soldier, so to speak, instead of a more disaffected, dishonest and dangerous camp followers ever watching for the scramble of revolution.

Simplification in religious teaching will solve the denominational difficulty in public religious instruction. The overtures already offered by the Anglo-Catholic Church and accepted by the modern orthodox churches around us, towards unity, have shown that all agree to accept and teach the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. If, therefore, all will agree to demand that a portion of Holy Scripture be read, and the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments be repeated without note or comment in all the public schools,—no more, no less—a grand foundation will be

laid, on which the future structure of christian morality, love and unity may be built, by the help of God.

Many of us who are old enough to remember the time when even the Bible chapter was read, without denominational comment, in the public schools every morning, will gratefully acknowledge the excellent formative effect which it had upon our subsequent religious and secular life, and surely few will doubt that the recitation of the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments would have greatly assisted the right understanding of the scripture lesson, or that under such instructions even the unfortunate children who received no religious instructions at home, would have subsequently furnished fewer evil doers in daily life, or candidates for the jail, the penitentiary or the gallows,—to say nothing of the present army of socialists and revolutionists.

The Romanists are showing a little fight here and there for equal rights in the school system, which may be useful by way of emphasizing the glaring injustice of that system; but meanwhile they are doing the most sensible thing in opening and maintaining their own parish schools, and so saving their children from the ruin into which an ungodly education is about to plunge a large part of the youth of this country. In this we cannot do better than to imitate them. Perhaps we began it first. But they are taking hold of it practically and are making a real thing of it. They have to pay twice,