

education, certainly, the paramount consideration is not how many but what kind of schools have we? Americans, whether Catholic or Protestant, would act in a wiser and a broader spirit, if besides keeping up a controversy in which, after all, there is nothing new to be said, and which is irritating, they set themselves resolutely to work to improve educational methods.

The kind of school which develops the best men and women will in the end prevail. We live in an age of inductive reasoning, of experiment and observation, and to be right in theory will avail nothing unless the application of our principles is justified by results. What is called the school question will be settled, if it is settled at all, by facts rather than by arguments, and to insist upon our grievances may even divert us from the real work of educating our children. As for those who accuse Catholics of sinister designs against the common schools, they are bigots or politicians, and need not be taken seriously. It is to be feared that our actual education, whether common or denominational, does little more than impress upon the memory words and phrases, or paint on the fancy vague and pale images of things. How seldom does it inspire pupils with burning love and irresistible longing for the higher kinds of intellectual, moral and religious life! They quit the schools thinking, if they think, only of making a living, not resolved to make of themselves living men and women. Such education is not the art of forming men, but a machine-making trade. As we train animals for practical service, so by our methods of teaching we stimulate certain faculties, call forth certain aptitudes, but leave the soul untouched. Better than to warn the young of danger and failure, would it be to make them feel how divine man's life may become if his whole being be turned to what is true, and good, and fair. Let the pupil—this should be the educator's motto—become himself good, and wise, and fair, and then, without effort or exhortation, he will do what is good, and wise, and fair. Fashion the man, the rest will come of itself. What need is there to urge the bird to fly? Give the soul wings and it will lift itself into ethereal worlds. Man wills what he desires and loves. Make him desire and love the best, and he will will the right. So long as he loves only the world of sense, he will dwell therein and no power can lift him higher, for true love