

indicating a very general forgetfulness of the supernatural, which, according to the Secular Society, is to have no place or part in the conduct of life. The conspicuous neglect of the Lord's Day by large masses of the people, both high and low, has indicated a weakened sense of religious needs, duty and responsibility. Not that church-going is of much use unless the right spirit accompanies it; still some who come to scoff may remain to pray, so that even a perfunctory attendance would seem better than a total forgetfulness of the Almighty from week's end to week's end. The sum of national sin is the aggregate of the individual sins of the people, and it might be well for us all seriously to consider what our individual contribution has been to the sum total, and how far we have been the victims and the exponents of the delusions of the Secular Society. The fearful scourge of war with which we are now being afflicted may and probably is due to our adhesion to and carrying out the principles of the Secular Society, and the sooner we learn that repentance and amendment are the Divine remedies, the better for us all.

It can hardly, therefore, be in accordance with any really sound policy, either public or private, that such principles should receive any support or sanction whatever from the law of a Christian state. If a bequest were made to a society formed for the purpose of promoting seditions and conspiracies against the King's Government, it would be null and void, and no Court of law would give any aid to making it effective. The Government of England is employed in spreading education among the people on Christian principles, and the society in question is formed to counteract and destroy the work of the State and spread certain noxious opinions, the fruition of which would be disastrous to the state, and the Courts of law have declared that a bequest to such a society is a valid and legal bequest. Mr. Justice Middleton, of the Ontario Bench, recently held that a testatrix's direction that her diamond ring should be buried with her was nugatory and the law would give no effect to it; and, in like manner, sound policy would seem to indicate that bequests to a society for the spread of anti-Christian doctrines should receive no support or aid from the Courts of law of a Christian state.