

is not influenced by conscience. The present Earl of Shaftesbury, a thorough Protestant, nay more, a strong anti-Papist, thankfully acknowledges the benefits of the stand which the Church of Rome has taken against non-sectarian education, and calls upon the other religious bodies to follow her example in this matter. It is nothing but sheer tyranny on the part of the State to compel the members of that Church to assist in sustaining a system which is calculated to sap her foundations, or to curtail the means at their disposal for supporting those schools which she has always possessed.

We will conclude our argument on this branch of the subject by quoting from the immortal statesman to whom we have before referred. "Bad laws," says Burke, "are the worst sort of tyranny. In such a country as this they are of all bad things the worst, worse by far than anywhere else; and they derive a particular malignity even from the wisdom and soundness of the rest of our institutions."* "In the making of a new law it is undoubtedly the duty of the legislator to see that no injustice be done even to an individual; for there is then nothing to be unsettled, and the matter is in his hands to mould it as he pleases." "All religious persecution," he continues, "Mr. Bayle well observes, is grounded upon a miserable *petitio principii*. You are wrong, I am right; you must come over to me or you must suffer. Let me add, that the great inlet by which a color for oppression has entered into the world, is by one man's pretending to determine concerning the happiness of another, and by claiming a right to use what means he thinks proper in order to bring him to a sense of it. * * * If he be before hand satisfied that your opinion is better than his, he will voluntarily come over to you, and without compulsion; and then your law would be unnecessary; but if he is not so convinced, he must know that it is his duty in this point to sacrifice his interest here to his opinion of his eternal happiness, else he could have in reality no religion at all." In another place he observes with marked emphasis: "Religion, to have any force on men's understanding, indeed to exist at all, must be supposed paramount to laws." †

After a review of the whole subject of this article in all its bearings, we are led to the following conclusions:—That the State has the right to require that all its members shall be educated to

* Burke's Works; by Prior. Speech at Bristol, Vol. II., p. 148.

† Burke's Works by Prior, "Tracts on the Popery Laws," Vol. VI.