

rational generation capable of outnumbering and controlling them. Then when our educational institutions are well established in the hearts of the people, and the country is pervaded by the leaven of a Protestant Christianity, we shall less fear "the blind hysterics of the Celt," and welcome more largely the ignorant and degraded of all lands—

"Nor heed the sceptic's puny hands  
While near the school the church-spire stands,  
Nor fear the blinded bigot's rule.  
While near the church-spire stands the school."

But let us remember that Canada has no exception from weeds of native growth. No patron saint has given us perpetual security from vermin. Both country and town will breed their respective evils. It is only by unceasing vigilance and well-considered efforts that we shall keep down the growing heathenism. It is for the state so to shape her educational measures that there may be no exemption or exclusion from the common enlightenment. Religious agency must for many reasons be left to voluntary endeavours, but as regards the common school, I, for one, hesitate not to accept, when necessary, the principle of compulsion. We recognise the rights of the parent, but we recognise also his duties; and we recognise in no one, whether parent, priest or potentate, the prerogatives of arbitrary power. No government hesitates to interfere with these imaginary rights. As the parent may be restrained from inflicting bodily torture upon his child, as the husband is compelled to share his property with his wife, as the citizen is compelled to contribute to the maintenance of public order, so also should the parent be compelled, when necessary, to give his child the elementary training provided by the state. Of course there are difficulties and objections, but these are more than counterbalanced by the evils of ignorance. There is to be considered not only the interests of the child but of the community; and not only for to-day but for generations to come. It is the cumulative power of such evils that we have to dread. The stream may be small at first and disregarded, but it will gather volume as it goes, until at length it will sweep on with a defiant and desolating flood. We must aim from the first at a national system, which means not merely schools open to all, but serviceable to all. We must keep to it as a political creed that no one has a right to be grossly ignorant, that no one in Canada has occasion to be so. Really the world has so long gazed on the picture of a degraded humanity that the result of human folly is almost mistaken for a law of God. But why should the darker