

nicious teachings; men are turning their backs on the Christian Church and on the broken rays of truth that are yet reflected through the shattered mirror of Protestant Christianity, and are venturing out on the sea of life without chart or compass or guiding star, to be tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of false doctrine, and to be finally wrecked as to their eternal hopes and happiness.

Never, perhaps, since the first promulgation of the Gospel was the spirit of the world more dominant amongst mankind than it is at present. Society is wounded to the core. Great moral plague-spots disfigure and putrefy it and eat and rot their way to its very heart. The insatiable thirst for gold; the idolatry of wealth, the practical ignoring of an eternal world, the worldly wisdom that now, as in the days of St. Paul, scoffs at the folly of the Cross and at the virtues which it symbolises—these are the characteristics of our times and they certainly are of the earth earthly, and directly antagonistic to the spirit of Christ and the teachings of the Gospel.

Schools have been taken from under the protection and guardianship of religion, and have been stripped of their christian character. The godless education imparted therein is fast dechristianizing modern society. It is true this system of godless education aims at the cultivation of the intellect and the diffusion of knowledge, but it leaves the heart a moral wilderness overgrown with rank poisonous weeds and noxious plants. Under the baneful influence of this unchristian education children are growing up without piety, without respect for parents, without veneration for old age, without obedience to civil or ecclesiastical authority. They are fast realizing the truth of the description given by St. Paul of those who in his day banished God from education:—"And as they like not to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them up to a reprobate sense to do those things which are not convenient, proud, haughty inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, dissolute, without affection, without fidelity, without mercy." (Rom. i. 28.)