

instruction, intellectual or moral, can be received in the majority of homes, where the father is away all day and returns wearied with toil, and the mother is burdened with household cares, and labours from daylight to bedtime? And shall we speak of Sabbath schools? What is one hour in the week on a Sabbath afternoon or morning compared with the admitted thirty of all the week under a teacher that ought to be more competent than the great majority employed as Sabbath school teachers? We write of what we know from a very wide experience. Look well to the day schools if you wish to save the country; if you wish to raise it to sobriety, respectability and honour, if you wish to see it stamped with high moral integrity and exhibiting its fruit in devout regard for God and His Church, and a due observance of that day which is a safeguard of all our interests for time and eternity. But never breathe the sentiment in school or out of it, that the school has nothing to do with God or His laws, with our blessed Redeemer and His precious Gospel. I hold it as established that there are tens of thousands of the young who will never know the great truths of the Bible, of God and eternity, if they learn them not in the Public school, for thousands of parents never enter a church and never read a page of the Bible from one end of the year to the other. What fruit can you expect from such a tree? Was it a school without a Bible that made Scotland what she was? I may safely affirm what millions of Scotchmen will endorse, that Scotland had never risen to make her mark in the world, as she has done, if the Word of God had been denied admission into her schools.

I maintain that there can be no suitable education to qualify for exemplary citizenship without moral

training from the Bible. It is our only standard of morality. Morality lies at the foundation of State prosperity and State stability. Hence the Bible has a claim to enter every Public school before every other book. Our public officers are sworn on that Book. Our Queen holds the sceptre by virtue of an oath taken on that Book—an appeal to the Invisible God whose revealed will that is. And yet, forsooth, by some singular perversity of spirit, politicians, lawmakers—and, tell it not in Gath, ministers of religion! object to the voice of God being heard from day to day in the school, where the young are supposed to be taught to respect that very morality of which they are now to be kept in ignorance! I have long been an advocate for the common Public School, but if the school is to be opened and closed without prayer, and if the Bible is to be shut out from it, then I venture to prophesy that the Churches will be forced, in self-respect and self-defence, to open schools for their own children, where the young will grow up with the fear of God before their eyes. My attitude to the Church of Rome is well known, but I cannot shut my eyes to the force of Cardinal Moran's language in our city, when he recently declared that "schools that were not based on religion never could and never would attract Catholic children." The Roman Catholic schools have increased fourfold within the last few years. Their hopes for the future rest on moulding the young in their impressive years. But the Protestant Churches, to their very great loss, and to the permanent injury of the country, have set too little value on the Scriptural training of the rising generation in the Public schools.

My last argument is, that the conscience with the emotional nature demands a culture not less than the