

control education. Existing schools and universities must be left where they were for the present, but in rivalry any rich man could establish a chain of private school, public school and college with such endowments that the stream of candidates would be drawn off the older schools and diverted to the new. Once the pupils were secured, they could be taught anything.

"You will have control of these boys and girls—don't forget to corrupt the girls' minds too; they're the future mothers—from six to twenty-six, starting with a kindergarten and ending with a travelling fellowship, fat scholarships the whole way. You can decide that the only doctrines taught are to be the literal inspiration of the Old Testament and Mill's Utilitarianism. The parents will fall over one another to get their children in, if the scholarships are large enough and you provide plenty to eat. There's no insanity of education that you can't get people to swallow, if only it's sufficiently endowed. . . . Look what they teach at an English public school! Good God, when I was at Cambridge, they solemnly insisted on my reading Paley's 'Evidences of Christianity.' Now, think of my colossal power, if I can set up private schools, public schools, universities, where only my doctrines would be taught and where the boys would simply have to come because of the immense money prizes. . . . I'd create a public opinion among future public men—a school of statesmen. After I'd been at it for thirty years, all your civil service here and abroad, all your journalists, your soldiers, your dons and school masters, your parliamentary candidates, your parsons and labour leaders would all have been through my mill. Not thirty years, no; but in relatively short time. They might disagree as much as they pleased with what they'd been taught, but they'd never be able quite to shake it off; it would be like Christianity or the 'Wealth of Nations'; their minds would be coloured by my doctrines; I should be the intellectual currency of that generation, and, after I'd gone, there'd be a crop of books about me, a tradition, a school of thought. . . ."