

we find a great part of the poem devoted to the idea of that inner freedom, that liberty of the soul, to be gained solely by obedience to divine law which should come in priority to mere political liberty, as the real guardian and guaranty of free institutions. Milton was no democrat; he was an aristocratic republican, like Plato; he despised the mob as truly as he detested tyrants; he was for an ordered liberty, a commonwealth of men whom, as Cowper said, the truth had made free, living under the reign of law. If our life and influence as a nation are to stand for a living influence in the world, if we are to be saved from the very real perils of materialism, we shall go to Milton for our ideal.

Matthew Arnold, in his essay on Milton, looking forward to the spread of Anglo-Saxondom, and quoting Heine as to the contagion of Anglo-Saxon vulgarity, says that the superb austerity of Milton will save us. So long as Milton is a

power, the progress of the English speech cannot mean the spread of vulgar contagion. There was recently a discussion as to whether Milton was still read, the majority of contributors, if we recollect rightly, being of opinion that he was not. It will be an evil thing for England if that is true. But it is a notable fact that the work of Professor Corson, to which we have referred, comes from America, where serious study of our great poets is far more general (to our shame be it said) than in the old country. It is new countries with their mushroom towns, their rush of life, their crude methods, which all need the chastening influence of a great idealist. We gladly welcome, therefore, the sign that Milton is loved and studied in the great Republic whose infant origins proceeded from the same great movement which gave him birth. Yes, America, as well as England, owes a mighty debt to John Milton — *The London Spectator*.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Deliver not the tasks of might  
To weakness, neither hide the ray  
From those, not blind, who wait for day,  
Though sitting girt with doubtful light.

"That from Discussion's lips may fall  
With Life, that working strongly, binds—  
Set in all lights by many minds,  
So close the interests of all."

We commend to our readers the article we publish this month from the *Canadian Churchman*, on the all important subject, Religion in Education. It is gratifying and a most hopeful sign, to note the increasing attention which is paid to this matter all over this continent as well as in the Mother Country. It has seemed to us that what the *Canadian Churchman* proposes is quite practicable. Surely Christian people can agree on how to use the Bible in the schools so that its teachings shall become influential in the formation of the character of the pupils.

We thank Superintendent, G. D.

Goggin, M.A., for his annual report of the schools in Western Canada.

The Hon. Edward Blake has resigned the Chancellorship of the Toronto University, and at the same time the Hon. William Mulock has resigned the Vice-Chancellorship. Both these gentlemen assign the same reason for withdrawal from the management of the University, viz., pressure of work and absence from the city. The country is much indebted to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for their valuable services as well as for the amount of money given by them to the University.