

the schools. In the House of Lords, shortly before the dissolution, he declared that there were two principles on which that House would always act. One was the principle that "endowments should be preserved for those for whom they were originally intended;" the other was "the supreme value of religious education, given according to the religion which the parents themselves professed." This latter pronouncement, taken with other similar hints, may be taken to indicate an immediate reversal of the direction in which the school legislation of Parliament has been, for some time past, steadily tending. This, in its turn, almost certainly means a renewal of the struggle for undenominational public schools, sterner and more fierce than any which has preceded it. The question before our mind at this moment is, where will such a contest find and leave the bulk of the Liberal members of the coalition, especially the Nonconformist members?

Professor Huxley's  
Philosophy.

The papers, especially the semi-religious papers, continue to discuss the philosophy of the late Professor Huxley, though, perhaps, with waning interest. Though the name of this great scientific investigator will live long in the histories of our Science and of our Literature, there seems good reason to doubt whether the deeper currents of philosophic thought will, in after years, be found to have been sensibly deflected or even deeply tinged by his thinking. It may seem to many devotees of modern science almost like blasphemy to say it, but it has often appeared to us worthy of question whether the close pursuit of modern scientific methods does not tend rather to weaken than to develop the purely logical faculty as an organ of discovery. To take an illustration from the writings of Huxley himself: The student of his earlier works will remember that, in one of his "Lay Sermons," he lays down the principle that, in order to be fitted for the discharge of one's duty in the world, "it is necessary to be possessed of only two beliefs: the first that the order of nature is ascertainable by our faculties to an extent which is practically unlimited; the second, that our volition counts for something as a condition of the course of events." How it is possible to rescue such a statement from the dilemma to which it directly leads, we have never been able to imagine. Are our volitions themselves, or are they not, so many products of the order of nature? If they are, the second of Mr. Huxley's theses is nugatory, or at least superfluous, being included in the first. Are our volitions conditions outside and independent of the ascertainable order of nature? Then the second thesis surely contradicts and invalidates the first. Is there a third hypothesis conceivable which can harmonize the two statements? Professor Huxley evidently was not troubled by the perception of any discrepancy. Did his keen vision discover a place of harmony at some point too far distant to be perceptible to weaker vision?

Income Tax in  
France

Deputy Cavaignac appears to have hit upon some plan for gilding that bitter pill, the income tax. The Deputy's scheme will, it is hoped, bring in about sixty millions of francs more per annum. This is not a great augmentation of the revenue, but the importance of the reform is not this augmentation, but in having an income tax voted. It will doubtless soon be increased, and thus replace a host of imposts which the French appear to have found very irritating. At present the tax appears in the innocent garb of a slight poundage; it will thus save augmenting the present four sources of taxation. The poundage asked is so small that

even a miser would not object to it, and its mode of calculation is not to be inquisitorial. No formal declaration will be demanded.

The Cuban  
Insurrection.

The struggle for independence which is now being carried on by strong bodies of insurgents in Cuba is really a matter of considerable importance to other people as well as to Spain and to the people of Cuba. Yet it is an affair about which it seems discreet to say as little as possible, for the very good reason that it is well nigh impossible to know with certainty very much about it. Those in revolt have, no doubt, had considerable success, and as a result have had accessions to their ranks, but no one seems to be able to tell us, with authority, to what extent the better class of the population are represented in this revolt. Long decades of misrule have reduced the people of the colony to such a condition that one cannot but sympathize with the misruled in their periodical struggles for freedom. Their success would be a just retribution for Spain. Whether those struggling to achieve it have the intelligence necessary to enable them to govern themselves, and make a good use of their independence should it be gained, it is hard to say. There is some reason to believe that, in the majority of cases, the advantage has usually been with the insurgents rather than with the Spanish forces, when a conflict has taken place. The guerilla warfare waged by the insurgents has also been successful to a considerable extent. The insurgents appear to possess some tactical skill as well as an obstinate courage. The climate is just now, and will be for some time to come, their very potent ally. It literally mows down those unaccustomed to it, during the summer season. Meanwhile the home government is no doubt improving the time in the way of preparation for a vigorous renewal of the campaign whenever the season shall permit. Were it not that it is to the interest of Spain to conciliate so powerful a neighbour of her revolted colonists, there would be great danger lest the United States should be drawn into the quarrel. The sympathies of her people are, no doubt, almost wholly on the side of the insurgents, and great vigilance on the part of the Government is needed to prevent infractions of the letter as well as of the spirit of neutrality. Should the struggle be protracted this will eventually become almost impossible.

A Problem in  
Morals.

When the schools are re-opened, the teacher who wishes to propound a simple problem in morals as an exercise for the development of moral thoughtfulness in his pupils may find an interesting one in a recent occurrence in Parliament. A man in one of the Provinces owns some mineral lands. The location of the lands is such that their commercial value depends altogether upon the construction of a certain railway. If the railway is built the mines will, it is morally certain, become valuable. If the road is not built they will continue undeveloped and virtually worthless. The construction of the railway depends upon the receipt of a subsidy from Parliament. Without such Parliamentary grant there is no hope of its being built. The owner of the lands has held them long, in hope that such a grant would be given, but has finally given up the hope, and offers the lands for sale at a very low figure. A man at Ottawa who knows the circumstances, becomes possessed of facts which make it morally certain that the Government grant will be given immediately. He at once sends a telegram to the owner of the lands offering to purchase the property at the very low figure at which it was being offered. The offer is accepted, the agreement made. Next day the Parliamentary grant is voted. The result is that within a short period the man who purchased the property for, say