

the schemes of mercenary politicians, and the folly of those who retard Christianity by mingling with it dogmas of their own invention.

There is much yet to do, far more than is generally supposed, to perfect and extend the educational system established in this country, but having the advantage of an early introduction and a general approval, it will not be easily displaced or rendered inoperative. For along with the schools which we have provided for the people, we have extraordinary helps and resources inherited by us from our forefathers. We in a manner combine the advantages of youth with the accumulations of time. We have not like other nations to wait for the slow development of language; we speak already a tongue matured by the lapse of ages and enriched by spoil gathered from all languages of the earth. We have not to grope blindly for models of eloquence, of story or song; Chatham and Burke, Macaulay and Gibbon, Burns and Dryden, Milton, Tennyson and Shakespeare are all our own. We have not to work out by a series of painful experiments the first problems of constitutional government; the parliamentary and judicial history lies spread out before us, with its precedents, its warnings, its inspiring examples. The military glory of Britain will make us strong, her battles teach us how to do or die. The mother country having planted us, enriched us, and seen us shoot up into bloom is supposed by some to be about to leave us alone to struggle with the storm. We would fain postpone the hour of abandonment, but if it must come we doubt not that we shall be able to live, sending our roots still deeper into the soil and our branches yet further to the sky. Nor need we altogether deplore the slow influx of European population to our shores. Could we use the type we might indeed pray for a large immigration, but often the classes that come are the classes we could best spare. This at least we shall gain by the delay—a better opportunity to lay in our own way unencumbered by violent mobs or evil traditions, the safe and sound basis of national weal. Let us not forget that it is from this foreign element and its medieval superstitions that has come the chief danger to our common schools, and which even threatens the school system of the neighbouring republic. Much as we have been harrassed by a section of this foreign population in the recent villainous attempts of Fenian hordes, there are events transpiring constantly in the United States sufficient to show that it is far better to meet these miscreants on the border as foes than to harbour them among us as citizens and friends. May all such emigrants continue to find a settlement in the great republic until we shall have reared a