

Arrangements may be made, possibly, to have the secular and religious teaching done in the same buildings; and possibly, different portions of the same day, or different days in the week, may be set apart for one or the other; and sometimes, perhaps, the same teacher may take charge of both. These are questions of detail and arrangement; but to do it as it is being attempted to be done now, will, I believe, always result in more or less failure.

The Roman Catholic idea and practice is the only one which can be worked satisfactorily; that is to say, that each denomination should look after the education of its own children, by teachers who are competent to teach their particular religious beliefs as well as general education; but as that to my mind it is absolutely impossible to be done satisfactorily in mixed communities, the only solution is to have the education of the State, and of the Church, entirely divorced. I do not wish to be misunderstood here, as that statement might be understood to mean by some "to kick the Bible out of school." It would not involve that at all. In so far as the Bible is a book of history, either of nations or of men, in so far as it is a revelation of creation, in so far as it contains a code of moral laws, I can see no reason why it should not be made a text book in the schools of all denominations of Christians; but when we come to its spiritual and religious teachings, the relations between God and man, of sin and its punishment, of righteousness and its rewards, of the church of Christ and its history, then the church should have entire charge of the teaching of its own children; and only those who are qualified to deal with these things should be employed to teach. For my part I would not have a prayer read by a teacher who could not enter into its spirit.

The question may be asked here, "If it is not done in the Public Schools to some extent, how can it be done? as the Sunday Schools in their limited time cannot accomplish this work?" I admit this at once, and it is just because it seems to me that the church thinks it is doing it somewhat now through the Public Schools, that I raise this protest here; for I am firmly convinced that the religious teaching which is being attempted through our Public Schools is of very little use indeed, and it is of worse than no use if the church is relying to any extent upon it, and not exerting itself in other directions. It is not only the duty but the privilege of every church to provide for the religious teaching of the children of its own members and adherents.