

# DO GODLESS SCHOOLS PAY?

## The Question Briefly Considered from a Moral and Social Point of View.

By BARNEY O'REGAN.

**L**EARNING is not education. It is a very true aphorism. The human mind is the receptacle of many ideas, impressions and influences. It is a garden that may be beautified by the cultured flowers of a refined education, or rendered unsightly by the noxious weeds and plants that thrive as the result of neglect or of misdirected effort. The flowers that bloom in this garden are ever thirsting for nourishment, in the shape of intellectual sunshine and rain and dew, and if these are not plentifully supplied in the form of sound moral instruction, the beautiful garden will soon be transformed into a wilderness, whose once fair flowers are overrun and checked in their growth by moral carelessness, skepticism, rank infidelity, downright vice. As tender plants require the utmost care, in order that a healthy growth may be assured, so children, that they may become good and useful members of society, require to be religiously trained and thoroughly grounded in the principles of a

**PURE, MORAL AND CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

If a child, born of Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist or Presbyterian parents, is daily instructed in the principles of morality and in the tenets of their particular creed, he will in his manhood, in the majority of cases, be a strong adherent of the church of his parents, and there is little or no danger that he will ever become a reproach to his people or a burden on his country. If his parents are Catholics, the same principle holds true, and he should be so thoroughly grounded in Catholicity by his natural guardians and by his teachers, that when he assumes the duties and responsibilities of manhood, he will be a shining example to those about him. At no time, perhaps, can the duties of the Christian life and the marks of the Christian character be so indelibly imprinted upon the soul as

**IN THE TENDER YEARS OF CHILDHOOD,** when the mind is pliable and impressionable, and when the future man, good or bad, is shaped and moulded. Placed in a good religious school, surrounded by companions who, like himself, are taught to love and regard the beautiful truths of the Christian religion, to respect their equals and to honor their superiors, to live soberly and industriously, and to obey the laws of the country, there is no danger of the child developing into other than a useful member of Church and State. Such training is the duty of all instructors, and the state that does not encourage it, but is satisfied with what may be designated Godless schools, is making a lamentable mistake. That mistake may not be apparent in the early years of the system by which these schools are fostered, but it will be felt and recognized before many years have flown into the dim corridors of the past.

**RELIGIOUS TRAINING IS A DUTY** enjoined by God, by our faith, by doctrine, by reason, by common sense, and by the results of actual experience. Christ enjoined upon his followers the care of children, and was upon those who scandalize these little ones, or who do not bring them up in the way they should go. "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." "Feed My lambs." "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." It is a common boast that the free schools of Canada are the glory of the country, but do they fulfil the conditions above laid down, and do the graduates of these schools, where Christianity is not inculcated by precept as well as by example, become as good members of society as those of the schools in which religious training is made an important feature? Only a negative answer is possible. As the "free school" systems of the different provinces are much alike in their general principles, and as none of them is perhaps superior to that of Prince Edward Island, I shall base my remarks upon the system in operation in this province. The underlying

**PRINCIPLE OF THE FREE SCHOOL SYSTEM** is that no one should be uneducated, and that every boy and girl should be grounded, at the expense of the State, in the three R's. Very good, but this should be properly reinforced by sound moral instruction and religious teaching, an essential phase that is entirely overlooked. Then, the system goes farther, it gives the majority of children a smattering—a mere useless smattering, unless followed up in the high school and college—of the "higher education," classics, mathematics, natural science, etc. This too often has an unsettling tendency, and turns the heads of precious pupils, giving them false ideas of life and of the sphere in which they are to move and live, making them discontented with the farm and the workshop, and finally leading them into the already overcrowded professions, to seek out a precarious existence, when they would have made independent and contented farmers and artisans, and even sometimes, as Ernest Heaton shows in his vigorous arraignment of the Ontario secular school system, leading, or rather driving them to crime in the desperate effort to support their position. Would it not be better to

**SUPPLANT CLASSICS AND SCIENCE AND SUCH BRANCHES** in the common schools by that teaching which shows the pupils how to distinguish between right and wrong, between morality and immorality? Has the

common school system diminished crime amongst the young? Has it not rather increased it, by educating boys into idleness, the sister of vice? This province has a sufficient number of youthful representatives—graduates from the common schools, most of them in the penitentiary, to answer the latter question in the affirmative. The noble work done by the Christian Brothers in Charlestown is still fresh in the minds of many, who see its results in the Catholic men of the present, who are an honor to their country and their church. Note the grand work being done to day at St. Dunstan's College, whose students are a credit to their alma mater and a source of justifiable pride to their fellow-Catholics, for that fine old college has sent its graduates up to the head of every profession and avocation.

**FROM THE FARM TO THE THRONE** of the Archbishop of Halifax and the bench of the Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island, but it has done so without "educating" Catholicity out of them or "skepticism" into them. The students of St. Dunstan's not only take as high rank in scholarship as those of any other college in Canada, but they are at the same time noted for their devout attachment to the faith of their fathers, which they never fail to uphold.

But, on the other hand, how does the Catholic boy fare in the "glorious" free schools, where the name and practice of religion are practically tabooed? He is there surrounded by boys of all shades and degrees of Sunday School prejudice, who stily, and oftentimes not too stily—in the precociousness and "smartness" of their years, for the boy of to day affects to know more than the man of a decade since—disseminate among their companions the biased opinions they have imbibed at home, and who ridicule them if they do not join in their profanity and blackguardism. I know, from an experience of some years as both pupil and teacher, whereof I speak.

**THERE IS NO HEALTHY AND RELIGIOUS TRAINING** to check and restrain the vicious tendencies of the boy, or to direct his youthful exuberance into proper channels, and did Catholic parents only know to what evil influences they often subject their children by sending them to the public schools, they would make many a sacrifice to have those children educated in schools based upon Christian foundations. The carelessness and evil influences of the Godless school are strengthened and intensified as the boy grows older, and as he mingles freely with the "sports" who have "finished" their education. Gambling and drinking habits are easily formed, though conscience now and then checks him. His "Roman" scruples are laughed away, until he becomes neglectful of his spiritual duties, finally dropping all semblance of them and blooming out

**A FULL FLEDGED INFIDEL,** and we have an unduly large crop of infidels, right here on little Prince Edward Island, as a result very largely of the abhorrence of the name of God and of religion in the curriculum of our free schools. I know one prominent Catholic, for example, who occupies a high official position, who was years ago so "broad minded" that he would not send his daughters to a convent, and who was always landing the free schools. "Give us ten years more of free schools," said he one day, "and we'll have no more priestly interference in politics." Well, to-day his eldest son is an infidel and "free thinker." And this is by no means a rare case. How dangerous then, is it for Catholic boys to be sent to the public schools, especially those whose parents are untutored, and therefore not in a position to offset the influence of these schools with judicious home training. Certainly the greater number of Catholic children have parents who look after their moral welfare, whose home teachings and whose religious surroundings counteract the deleterious influence of the Godless schools, but many are not so happily situated.

From France the teaching Orders were driven by the bayonets of a rabble soldiery, and their magnificent educational institutions gave way to the school system framed by agnostic "statesmen," whose every move was based on atheism and *francmasonry*. The lamentable outcome of that revolution should be a warning to other States to "hasten slowly" in the matter of banishing religious instruction from the schools, and let people take note of this fact, that to-day, after the experience that Canadians have had with Godless schools for the past quarter of a century or more, it is not Catholics alone who are asking for

**A RETURN TO SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.** Though we in this province have bowed to the rule of the majority, and have accepted the free school system (which is perhaps as near perfection here, where people of all denominations work together harmoniously, as it can be brought), and though we have no wish to re-open old wounds, yet the indisputable fact remains that,—notwithstanding the great progress made in secular education since 1877, and notwithstanding the many advantages of the present School Act over that of 1850,—were the Catholics of Prince Edward Island not more strong-minded and conservative in matters of faith and morals than the people of France, they would soon drift into the same atheistical channels. People of cold latitudes are, it is well known, less impressionable, less mercurial in temperament, than those of warmer climates, and perhaps in this, to some considerable extent, lies their stability and their safety. But, even with all the safeguards that have been

known around our people, there is in the small province of Prince Edward Island entirely

### TOO LARGE A NUMBER OF INFIDELS AND ATHEISTS,

and amongst their ranks are to be found some who were once Catholics, to their shame be it said. Catholic parents, who wish to see their sons taking a leading position in whatever walk of life they may select for themselves, and at the same time remaining earnest and sincere Catholics, cannot afford to depend upon the secular schools, but should endeavor by every possible means to have their boys educated in distinctively Catholic colleges, such for instance as grand old St. Dunstan's, and should generously support all our Catholic educational institutions. There is no reason why our Catholic young men should not continue to lead in the professional ranks in the future as well as in the past, if we only hand-somely support the splendid educational institutions we have, and let the Godless schools—with which, as far as other than Catholics are concerned, we have no quarrel—take care of themselves.

### THE WOLFE TONE MONUMENT

The following subscriptions have been collected by Mr. James McGovern, treasurer Irish National Club, for the Wolfe Tone Monument Fund, and forwarded to the Hon. P. V. Fitzpatrick, treasurer of the Irish National Alliance. It is to be hoped that a general subscription amongst the Irish residents of this city will be taken up during the coming summer for this patriotic enterprise. Catholic Ireland appeals to her scattered children irrespective of religious opinions to do honor to the memory of one of her greatest of Protestant martyrs. Will that appeal to her children in the Dominion of Canada be in vain:

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- Mrs. J. O'Connor..... 5
- Timothy O'Connor..... 5
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- Wm. Fogarty..... 5
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- Miss O'Kane..... 5
- Miss B. Daley..... 5
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- Mrs. J. McCarthy..... 5
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- James J. Bermingham..... 5
- Thomas F. Bermingham..... 5
- Edward O'Reilly..... 5
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- R. A. O'Reilly..... 5
- Miss Kate O'Reilly..... 5
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- Miss Anne O'Reilly..... 5
- James McGovern..... 5
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- Miss Lizzie McGovern..... 5
- Miss Maggie McGovern..... 5
- John McCarthy..... 5
- Mrs. J. McCarthy..... 5
- Michael McCarthy..... 5
- Miss Delia McCarthy..... 5
- Miss Nellie McCarthy..... 5

### MISS MORRISON'S CONCERT.

The Distinguished Soprano Achieved a Splendid Success.

MRS JEAN HARVEY AND OTHER ARTISTS WERE AMONG THE PERFORMERS.

Lovers of good music were provided with an opportunity of enjoying a first-class programme, furnished by prominent artists, at the grand concert given by Miss Louise Morrison and Mrs. Jean Harvey, in Association Hall, on Wednesday evening, April 21st.

Miss Morrison is well known in Catholic circles, for she has ever been ready to lend the charm of her rich soprano voice to enhance the musical services of St. Patrick's Church, on special festivals, and we are pleased to record the success of the concert of which Miss Morrison and her associate, Mrs. Jean Harvey, were the promoters.

The appearance of these two artistes for the opening number, the "Lied der Vögelin," of Rubenstein, was greeted with an outburst of welcoming applause, which was renewed with hearty vigor when their voices melted away in the final notes of the selection. Mrs. Harvey's melodious contralto voice blends exquisitely with the clear, ringing soprano of Miss Louise Morrison, who sings with an ease and dramatic grace that overcomes the most difficult passages. In her solo numbers, notably the "Air des Bijoux," from Gounod's Faust, she was admirable; and the enthusiastic audience, which was not as large as the concert merited, but was intelligently appreciative, applauded until an encore was graciously conceded.

A second selection from the same source, "Scène du Jardin," was rendered during the evening by Miss Morrison and Mr. Plamondon; the latter is the possessor of a rich tenor voice which he uses to the best advantage; and he found full scope for its qualities in the dramatic selection.

Mr. Goulet captivated the audience through the medium of his violin, which responded faithfully to the sympathetic hand that controlled it. He was in constant demand during the evening and had frequently to humor his delighted listeners by a second appearance.

One feature of the programme that was particularly pleasing was the playing of Tomlin's "Home, Sweet Home," by Mrs. Parrot, on the harp. This accomplished lady handled her instrument with admirable skill and grace, and the well-known and heart-reaching strains lost nothing of their charm and beauty under the touch of Mrs. Parrot's nimble and persuasive fingers.

Dr. A. F. J. Botson sang Wadlington Cooke's "Stand Fast" in fine style, and

his baritone voice contributed to the successful effect of the magnificent quartette, "Bella Juglia," from Verdi's Rigolotti, in which Miss Morrison, Mrs. Harvey and Mr. Plamondon also were heard. Dvorak's "Russian Trio," played on piano, violin and organ, by Mrs. Turner—who presided at the piano during the evening—and M. sera. Duquette and Charbonneau, was very prettily rendered, and was repeated in response to the hearty applause with which it was received.

A pretty lullaby "R-est Thou, My Child," written by Miss Louise Morrison, was sung very effectively by Mrs. Harvey.

The future efforts of Miss Morrison and Mrs. Harvey in the pursuit of their art will be eagerly looked forward to by all who had the pleasure of enjoying their recent concert, and we wish them the success they so well deserve.

### Note and Comment.

There is an unusual amount of anxiety in certain circles regarding bachelors. The latest evidence comes from a small town in New Jersey, where the following notice was recently published:

"The Presbyterian Church Improvement Guild invites all bachelors to bring their undarned socks, gloves or any article needing repairs to the lecture room on Monday evening, at 8 o'clock, and they will be neatly and quickly mended by some of Metuchen's latest dancels, and while you wait you will be refreshed by a cup of chocolate and a sandwich, to which your ten cent admission ticket will entitle you."

Are bachelors so scarce in New Jersey that they have to be lured out into the open matrimonial field with seductive chocolate and sandwiches, or is it out of pure goodness of heart that "Metuchen's latest dancels" are anxious to repair the bachelors' smallwars? It is certainly an original method of mending mending work.

The enthusiasm aroused over the project of the Irish Fair in New York is steadily increasing as the time for its formal inauguration draws nearer. Representatives of Ireland's thirty-two counties, whether natives or descendants, are alike actively bestirring themselves in the interest of the Fair, which has for its object the erection of a magnificent structure that shall be known as the Irish Palace Building, and will be the central home of all the Irish organizations of New York. Bags of Irish earth and sods from the old land are being shipped across the Atlantic, as well as every conceivable article of interest that is valued for its historic or local associations, and will be considered an attraction at the Fair. Many beautiful specimens of Irish handicraft will also be exhibited and many examples of Irish industrial products. Limerick has sent some remarkable relics. One of these is the table that was used by its gallant defender, Patrick Sarsfield, in his quarters at Ballynally, where he planted the guns when the English had spiked on the hills with the intention of destroying surrounding villages. It has remained as a precious heirloom in the possession of one family since that stirring period. The key of St. Mary's Cathedral, which was turned over to the English after the signing of the Limerick treaty, is another of these interesting relics.

Mementoes of Gerald Griffin, the sweet singer, whose brief life shed such lustre on his native county, have also been secured.

Entertainments and social gatherings are being held by the workers for each county and the proceeds derived from them are adding a neat amount to the general fund.

A writer in the New York Independent says:—"The division of our American Christendom is a sad reproach." Our Roman Catholic brethren never tire of declaring that they are Catholic, and that we who have inherited the unfortunate name "Protestant" are split into a hundred competing and conflicting sects. It is true that we are. Some of these sects recognize and fellow-ship each other in a limited way, and others do not. Yet most of them are ready to admit that others beside themselves are true and regular Christian churches, and are willing to receive from them courteous messages at their national meetings. Yet these hundred and more denominations have no public, visible, formal bond of union; the Evangelical Alliance is hardly such. For all the world can see, they are rivals; and such they very often are. They do not come together in towns, or cities, or counties, or states, or in the nature of affectionate fellowship and consultation. Their more Christian young people's societies may do so, but the churches themselves do not. Now this attitude of scarce more than armed truce is simply wrong. It is a sin before God. It ought to be corrected. We heartily approve the efforts made to bring together into corporate union, here and there, two or three denominations. We earnestly wish that Northern and Southern Presbyterians, Northern and Southern Methodists, the Congregationalists and the Christian Connection might unite; but such a union, desirable as it would be, would not heal the main divisions. A far larger necessity is that which would unite in confederation of council and service those denominations which can not yet combine in corporate unity. Here is work for those who love the unity of the faith."

It is indeed a very laudable desire to seek for the union of the various Christian

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### Hood's Pills

in all the larger cities of the United States, and many small ones, extensive play-grounds for children have been provided. There are many vacant spots in the city which could easily be turned into recreation spots, not the keep-off-the-grass variety, but plain grass plots where children can gambol to their hearts' satisfaction. The Haymarket Square, old St. Patrick's Square and the eastern portion of Viceroy Gardens would make good play-grounds. It would only be necessary to sod these places with grass and this would surely not cost a very large amount. If this proposal were carried out it would probably do a great deal more good than a lifetime of "fresh air excursions," and would be far more acceptable.



**THINK OF THE LITTLE THINGS**

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ian sects, but has the Independent thought out the means by which the union can be arrived at. Will these sects consent to sink their differences and join forces? I am certain that this will not be done.

An English exchange publishes the following:—  
The Seaforth Highlanders seem to have created quite a sensation among the natives of Crete. "If the men dress like this how are the women clothed?" asked an astonished denizen of Candia. The question carried one back to Balaclava. After that battle Liprandi the Russian general, asked a prisoner who and what the soldiers were who standing in a "thin red line" (Sir Colin's Highlanders, now the Argyl and Sutherland) and so contemptuously repulsed the charge of his cavalry. "Oh, was the reply, these are the wives of the men on the grey horses" (the Scots Greys, who had on the same day taken part in the charge of Scarlett's Heavy Brigade, which exploded a large mortar of Russian cavalry.

The London "Star" says:—"It is not generally known that Lord Russell of Killowen is an author as well as an orator, lawyer, sportsman, ex-Parliamentarian, and Lord Chief Justice of England. Time was when he was simply Mr. Charles Russell, a rising barrister with whom briefs were not so plentiful as to altogether preclude his devoting some time to the duties of a special correspondent. In those distant days he made a tour of Ireland in the interests of the "Daily Telegraph," to whose columns he contributed a series of brilliant letters, which were subsequently re-issued by the house of Macmillan in book form, under the title of "New Views of Ireland." Hitherto it has been universally understood that this was the Chief's one and only book, but the latest list of accessions to the British Museum shows that the general belief is erroneous. The Museum people have picked up a still earlier publication of his, one issued as far back as 1859, and bearing the title of "The Catholic in the Workhouse," a popular statement of the law as it affects him, and the religious grievances it occasions; with practical suggestions for redress." It is issued by the Catholic Publication Society of London."

The newspaper museum in Aix-la-Chapelle contains a copy of the world's largest newspaper, which is known as the Illuminated Quadruple Constitution, and was published in New York in 1859. The paper is similar in form to the surface of a billiard table, and measures eight feet six inches in height by six feet in width. It contains eight pages, each of thirteen columns, and these are forty-eight inches long. The paper on which it is printed is extremely durable and strong, and each run weighed three hundred pounds. Forty people were occupied continually for eight weeks in order to bring out the first issue of this remarkable newspaper, which it is proposed to publish once in 100 years.

From London Truth the following is clipped:—"During the military tattoo alter the balcony at Dublin Castle the other night the statue of Justice, which faces the State apartments, was suddenly illuminated with a brilliant red light. A witty member of the household, looking on remarked: "How like the state of Ireland! Banqueting inside the Castle, Justice going to blazes outside!"

This is also from Truth:—"I hear from Edinburgh that vigorous measures were taken to repress the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons. One junior officer is said to have been fined for wearing a piece of shamrock on his cap, although not on parade. The sergeants were forbidden to have their usual dance, and instead of the day being observed as a holiday an extra parade was ordered. If these statements are correct they point to an extraordinary combination of bad feeling and bad judgment on the part of the officers responsible. There are no regiments in the British army in which *esprit de corps* is stronger than in the Irish regiments, and anybody possessing the tact necessary for handling soldiers would do his best to encourage the national sentiment rather than to insult or strangle it."

Mr. William Rowe, a highly respected citizen of Delaware, died on April 10, at the age of 72 years. Mr. Rowe was a personal friend of the late John Boyle O'Reilly, and was remarkable for his minute knowledge of the Catholic history of Delaware. He was a native of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

In all the larger cities of the United States, and many small ones, extensive play-grounds for children have been provided. There are many vacant spots in the city which could easily be turned into recreation spots, not the keep-off-the-grass variety, but plain grass plots where children can gambol to their hearts' satisfaction. The Haymarket Square, old St. Patrick's Square and the eastern portion of Viceroy Gardens would make good play-grounds. It would only be necessary to sod these places with grass and this would surely not cost a very large amount. If this proposal were carried out it would probably do a great deal more good than a lifetime of "fresh air excursions," and would be far more acceptable.

General Grant's body was removed on April 17 from the temporary tomb in which it was deposited twelve years ago and deposited in the magnificent mausoleum which has been destined for its final abode. When the cover of the outer steeple had been removed the wreaths laid on the casket within were found in their original form, and a white rose that was among these floral tributes was in almost perfect condition. A wreath of oak leaves was handed to Gen. Frederick D. Grant at his own request. It had been woven by the fingers of his little daughter Julia, as an offering to be laid on the bier of her distinguished "grandpapa." It has been placed in the new sarcophagus.

Buffalo rejoices in the distinction of possessing an unrivalled system of handling baggage which has been inaugurated through the generosity of Mr. Charles W. Miller. A traveller need no longer concern himself about his belongings now that the "special delivery" plan has been adopted. He has only to notify the railway company of his address at his intended destination, and when he arrives at his hotel or other stopping place the baggage has generally arrived before him.

A wonderful record of prolonged labor is that which is given in a history of Thomas O'Flanagan in the Fourth Estate. The remarkable Irishman began his career as a printer on May 1, 1799, at the age of fourteen years in the office of the Freeman's Journal, in Dublin, and after seventy-six years, at the venerable age of ninety he was still doing active duty at his case on The Nation.

Women are now privileged to become soldiers in the State of Colorado. A recent bill passed in the State Legislature declares them eligible for militia service. Whether this concession has been granted on account of a scarcity of able-bodied men, or because of the anxiety of Colorado's fair sex to shoulder arms, we are left to puzzle out in silence.

News comes of the poverty and distress of a Canadian heroine, Mrs. Abigail Becker, who accomplished a brave deed at Long Point, Lake Erie, when she rescued a shipwrecked crew from almost certain death on a wild December night forty years ago. The Ontario Legislature will be petitioned to grant a pension to her.

**MONTREAL CITY & DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders of this Bank will be held at its office, St. James Street, on

**Tuesday, 4th May next, at One O'Clock P.M.**

for the reception of the Annual Reports and Statements, and the election of Directors.

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**H. Y. BARBEAU,** Manager.

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