

ing to the view then prevailing, call on the Courts of law to assist them in the spread of opinions which, rightly or wrongly, were generally regarded as inimical to the best interests of the commonwealth. But, according to the recent decision of the English Court of Appeal, this view has been further modified, and those who seek to undermine the Christian religion are now not only entitled to toleration, but also to the assistance of the Courts of law in carrying on their propaganda.

In the case of *Re Bowman, Secular Society v. Bowman*, noted in the *English Law Times Jour.*, vol. 139, p. 315, a bequest to a society formed "to promote . . . the principle that human conduct should be based upon natural knowledge, and not upon supernatural belief, and that human welfare in this world is the proper end of all thought and action," was upheld as a valid legal bequest. This, it may be seen, is a society which simply ignores God; it is, to all intents and purposes, at least agnostic, if not distinctly atheistic, and its aims and objects are frankly materialistic.

We have a very practical lesson as to the meaning of such doctrines in the catastrophe which has overtaken Europe, and in which the British Empire is now involved. Whoever will care to read the diplomatic correspondence which preceded the declaration of war cannot fail to see that Sir Edward Grey did all that was humanly possible to avert war; that the course which he proposed was eminently Christian, just and reasonable, and that every effort he made in the direction of the maintenance of peace was thwarted by Germany, and that the British Empire was irresistibly drawn into the conflict and could only have refused to take up arms at the cost of sacrificing her honour. The progress of the war has revealed the reason of Germany's action. It has shewn that she was prepared for the struggle as no other nation in Europe. Her plan of campaign, as developed, has shewn that she intended to strike a swift and decisive blow, and, in order to do so, that she regarded a solemn treaty as of no more value than "a scrap of paper," and that it was only by the intervention of the British Empire that her plan failed. Now, all these enormous preparations for war, all this contempt