

ought to be treated quite apart from the question of financial aid.

Mr. Harcourt also showed a great lack of appreciation of the best work of the Public School Inspector. He treated this official in the narrowest possible way, allowing no credit for his work as a superintendent. Dr. Rice, an eminent authority on educational matters in the United States, has shown from his examination of the various Public schools there, that efficient superintendence by an official inspector is one of the best guarantees of good work.

The reason the promoters of Voluntary Schools wish to urge the employment of only qualified professional teachers, the use of proper text books, and the submitting of such schools to inspection, is not "an attempt to throw a sop to the Cerberus in St. James' Square," as Mr. Grant may suppose, but a real desire to maintain a standard of efficiency in what would otherwise be separate private schools; each with a system peculiarly its own, and having little or nothing in common with each other or with the national system of education. There is no doubt a weakness in private schools not employing professional teachers quite apart from personal qualifications. Our Normal College and Schools of Pedagogy may not be all that we may desire; but that their purpose is good there can be no doubt. Let the supporters then of Voluntary Schools, and of common schools unite in their effort to improve wherever it is possible, the conditions under which our teachers are trained for their most important

calling, so that they may be most thoroughly equipped for their work, whether it is to be carried on in the Common schools or in the Voluntary Schools. The advantage when pupils must pass from Voluntary Schools to the Common schools or vice versa, will be at once apparent. The standing and methods of promotion would have enough in common to enable the pupils to make steady progress notwithstanding a change in residence, necessitating a change from one school to another.

We see in the education bill now before the British House of Commons the principles of Voluntary Schools fully recognised and a substantial provision made for their support; and yet Mr. Harcourt ventured to assert before our own Legislative Assembly "that this system was being repudiated as fast as it could be repudiated by the sober thought of England." Mr. J. H. Voxall, M.P., has shown in a letter in the London Daily Mail (April 9th) the possible extinction of the private school unless such schools employ only the "hall-marked teacher" and accept Government inspection of "recognised schools."

Opinion in favour of a well regulated system of Voluntary Schools is developing, and must develop if our private schools are to accomplish satisfactory work for the State; and such schools must be recognised as an integral part of our national educational system if that system is to be liberal in its methods, and adapt itself to the varying needs of the community.