

ejected is upon the expurgatory list of books of a certain religious sect, a member of which has begun the movement resulting in its ejection. For this committee of free citizens to put its expurgatorial stamp upon the book for the reasons alleged is to ally itself with that religious sect. Such an act would be a misrepresentation of the Boston public and American ideas. It would be the beginning of a religious war upon the hearthstone of our civil institutions. It would plant sectarian strife in the cradle of American children.

As American citizens we enter a solemn protest against all who originate a continuance of such a course. For the past ten years there has been peace in our school community. The disturbers of the peace are those who break the line which these years have followed.

As heads of American households, as the fathers of children who fill our public schools, as American electors, who have in large part created this school committee, and who for the time have intrusted to the members thereof their rights for the safe keeping, we ask you to act, as we would act, in the interest of the whole community, and to continue the successful and peaceful past by granting this petition. (Signed) PHILIP S. MOXOM, JAMES M. GRAY, DAVID GREGG, JAMES B. DUNN, A. J. GORDON, NELSON B. JONES, JR., JOHN F. CLYMER, EZRA FARNSWORTH.—*Boston Journal of Education*.

THE EDUCATIONAL MOLOCH.—KING HEROD might rejoice greatly if he lived in these days; he would see a sort of "massacre of the innocents" going on daily; under State direction and with the apathetic approval of the British public. We do not

mean, of course, that our blessed educational system absolutely murders those who come into its clutch. But in the case of infants, it has an unmistakable tendency to shorten life. Take the picture of one of these institutions communicated to a *Lancashire* paper by an expert. It contains about 200 infants between three and six years of age. All of them "study" (save the mark!) in one room, class rivalling class, and pupil-teacher pupil-teacher, in the vain endeavour to hear and make themselves heard. The necessarily vitiated atmosphere, the confused jumble of simultaneous *viva voce* instruction in different branches, and the fearful noise, must be sufficiently trying to the baby constitutions. But there is a worse ordeal even than this purgatory; every now and then an inspector makes his awful appearance, and the infants have to go through their educational facings in fear and trembling. Talk of bogies, indeed! What more frightful spectre was ever conjured up by an idiotic nurse than this stern functionary, bristling all over with sharp questions like a Texan citizen with bowie-knives and revolvers? The teachers themselves are smitten with awe by his dread presence, knowing well that it largely rests with him to mar their careers. But it is on the little ones that he produces the most terrifying effect; they shrivel up as he glares at them, and what muddled learning they have picked up vanishes clean away. No doubt it is a great advantage to poor folk to have their infants looked after while they are at work. But this might be done without putting the unfortunate brats to educational torture. Play is the thing for children under six; the more they have of it, the better for their mental and physical health.—*Globe* (London).