

It is very clear that every nation that undertakes to educate its young in national schools must choose between a training that is Biblical and religious, or a training that is secular and non-religious. There seems to be no middle ground. Our schools must be either religious or non-religious, *i.e.* godly or ungodly, *i.e.* either *for* or *against* Christ. No neutral ground is logical or practical, possible or tenable for any length of time.

There are not a few good Christian people who, led away by the reaction setting in all over the world against the union between Church and State, demand an entire separation of religion from the sphere of civil government, beginning with Parliament, which must, they say, legislate by the light of nature and not according to Christianity, and ending with the national schools in which they say the Bible ought to have no place.* We do not believe that all the very good and intelligent people who advocate such views as these really understand the natural, necessary and logical consequences of their theory. The legitimate consequences are thus put very clearly and forcibly by an eminent American writer:—

“If we adopt the principle of the absolutely non-religious character of civil government, and its independence of Scripture and of the mediatorial authority of Christ, it is evident that a new literature must be created, purged of all religious thought or sentiment, dictionaries expurgated of all religious words, history rewritten with all traces of providence, grace, or faith eliminated, and philosophy, mental and moral, reduced to a department of molecular mechanics. That system already emerging in contemporaneous history, and almost everywhere foreshadowed, is a new thing upon the earth, and promises to be the consummate instrument of Satan for the propagation of atheism and practical irreligion, and ranks equal to the greatest of the many antichrists. If, in reconstructing or developing our national systems, they opposed the Papal subordination of the State to the infallible Church, with, on the other hand, the Erastian subjection of the Church to the civil authority, they must never accept the easy but fallacious solutions which implied that the State is any the less subordinate to Christ than the Church, or any the less subject to His personal supremacy, or to His law as revealed in His Word. If they were laying the foundations of the great system of national education which is to form the character of future generations, in opposing sectarian education in a Papal or pre-

*At Walsall, England, it has been decided to exclude the Ten Commandments from the religious teaching in the Board schools, on the ground that difficulties would arise in explaining the fourth and seventh commandments to children. The passage from the New Testament has been substituted, beginning “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God,” etc. The next step will likely be to exclude even this passage on the ground of the difficulty of explaining to children what God is.