

We will, in conclusion, endeavor to offer a few remarks as to the problem socialism attempts to solve.

We admit that property is often abused, that questionable means are employed in its acquisition, but we deny altogether that the evil arising from it is so great as to necessitate its abolition. Every gift of God to man is liable to be abused, but is no therefore in itself of necessity an evil. And this last sentence affords a clue to the difficulty which is not nearly so great a one as some would have us believe.

Property should be regarded as the gift of God, and therefore acquired lawfully, and used, as we believe God would have us use it.

It is thus in one sense not absolutely ours, but held from God, and to him men are accountable for it. Where this idea is held, there is no abuse of property, no illegal, covetous grasping of it, but it is a blessing to us, and to those we come in contact with, in various ways.

As to the equality of all men, before we attempt to make men equal by law, let us ask are they equal by nature.

One is born into the world with talents, which developed, enable him to become an artist, a poet, an author or an orator, whilst another, born in the same station never rises above the condition of a ploughman, even though equal external facilities for advancement should be offered him. We must remember that the terrible poverty of our cities is in great part the result of vice and crime, that with seven tenths of the inhabitants of the slums, if they were raised to-morrow to comparative ease, would in an incredibly short period be back again to their old condition, and old haunts.

That abuses have existed in the past is only too true, that reformation is called for now in many things is likewise true, but we refuse to believe that the beggarly rudiments of iron laws for every department of life will in any way better man's condition. The busy would be made to suffer for the idle, for whom, and to some extent by whom the socialistic schemes are agitated.

Individual reform, and regeneration is the teaching of Jesus Christ, and on it all our hopes are centred, even though it be futile to expect it to be universal in this world. Without it the law and the state are but the revealers and strength of sin, with it they are unnecessary.

It is worthy of notice that Mr. Herbert Spencer has, independently of his New Testament we presume, arrived at and given utterance to the same opinion in an interesting essay on this subject—"The Coming Slavery"—*Contemporary Review*, April 1884.)

His opinion cannot strengthen our previous conviction, derived from Divine Truth, but as leader of thought in the Agnostic world, his words will be of weight to those who are not disposed to listen to it. We trust they may do something to divert the noble spirit amongst socialists from their pursuit of an 'ignis fatuus' to the true light.

MILITARY EXERCISES IN SCHOOLS.

There is a story told of the Duke of Wellington, who when passing Eton College saw the boys at cricket on the green, and exclaimed, "That's where Waterloo was won." This pregnant sentence shows what a great factor school sports are in national education. In the great seats of learning the world over physical learning is fully recognized, and our own colleges are alive to its importance. It is very significant and encouraging, that in those institutions where the most enlightened views prevail, the "Gospel of Relaxation" has stout advocates and consistent disciples. But unfortunately in the high and public schools, whatever theories of school government may be held, the most prominent practical feature is an almost total disregard of systematic physical education. The whole educational system of Ontario is based on the idea that the school is *responsible* only for intellectual improvement, and this idea is so deeply grounded that it would seem like rank heresy to dispute it. Virtually, in process of time, education and book-learning have become convertible terms. Law makes ten minutes the *minimum* of time allowed for recreation, practice makes it the *maximum*, the pressure of the promotion and entrance examinations wipes it out. When progress is gauged by the hours of confinement, no *stoppage of the educational machinery* must be tolerated. How then shall we remedy this defect in a system otherwise admirable. Clearly by official patronage, official inspection, official encouragement, and more individual liberty to the regulation-harassed teacher. It is no despicable attainment to be able to take part in the principal field sports, and in no qualification is the average teacher so lacking. Military platoon exercises and all the movements of ordinary squad drill could be practiced with splendid effect in every school yard, if the teacher were qualified to conduct the exercises. And this not only in towns and villages but also in the rural districts. If every summer vacation a brigade of teachers were to go into camp under competent instructors and there be initiated into the mysteries of the military platoon exercises, and thoroughly coached in all sports adapted for our schools, order and system might replace the present aimlessness that characterizes our school exercises. Such a mobilization of the moral police force could not be objected to on any ground of principle or expediency, its advantages being so apparent and its effect so immediate. The expense, which considering the benefits would be very small, could be partly borne by the Department, and partly by the teachers themselves. Niagara, Thousand Isles, Orillia or some other healthful and picturesque locality might be selected for camping ground. In the early days of the Province every school was in close proximity to nature's great gymnasium—the woods. Running through its arcades, climbing from limb to limb, hunting its swift-footed denizens, and bending its saplings, were exercises sufficiently varied and exciting to afford health and amusement to thousands of children. The progress of the country has changed all this and the youth of the present generation are assigned, as the arena of their sports, a plot of ground, so treeless, flowerless and uninviting that it offers no temptation to the way-farer to "loiter within its precincts." Yet it may be made the theatre of many a noble game, and a training ground for some future "Waterloo."

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