

all who have means to contribute to give the children of the poor a sound English education, but I deny the right of this or any state to tax men to build palaces and pay large salaries to professors to teach the children of those who have abundant means to educate their own children. A few years ago the wise men of the country concluded that religion should be left to the voluntary principle. Religion—the want of which is not felt by all; religion—which those who need most, care least about; religion, which wise statesmen have ever tended with unwearied care, believing that it is “Righteousness which exalteth a nation:”—This the wise men of our country were willing to leave to the voluntary principle. But education, which all acknowledge to be necessary, they are unwilling to trust to the same principle; it must be richly endowed, its teachers must be educated at the public expense, and the children of high and low, rich and poor, must be driven, must be whipped into the temples of the God of the nineteenth century, where boys and girls worship side by side. Some persons are in raptures over this plan; they believe that the manners of the boys will be softened; but oh! at what price? At the price of female modesty. Now, we are proud of our women—they are the glory of our land; but let a few years pass away under the present system, and the glory shall have departed. But I am happy to say that there are thousands of fathers in this country who would rather follow their daughters to an untimely grave, than permit them to attend a school where they would come in contact with the worst boys a town or city can produce.

My lord, I believe that there may be too much secular education; I believe that while the world stands, the great majority of men will be hewers of wood and drawers of water; I have no faith in a millennium, at least on this planet, when every man will be clothed in broadcloth, wear kid gloves and patent leather boots. Now, if you take the children of a community and confine them in a crowded school room for six hours every day, from the age of seven to fourteen, you must injure their physical frame; and we all know that a healthy physical frame is the capital, the stock-in-trade of the majority