

be—masters not only of the children but of the parents and of the public. All these influences, together with the usurpation of time by the high demands of modern ideas on secular instruction, will tend more and more to leave religion—nowhere.

Financially it seems to me to be the height of folly to discourage the greatest of all agencies—zeal for religious truth—in persuading men to support efficient voluntary schools in which they take an earnest interest. I should be prepared to deal equally with all voluntary societies and all Churches in paying them for their work as tested by such methods as may be deemed best. I heartily sympathize with Roman Catholics in demanding the same reward for the same work which is freely given to secular or it may be to irreligious schools. I have long thought that the restrictions placed on their education in Ireland have been the only remaining grievance in that country; and I am rather ashamed of the Protestantism which fears the effects of the emblems of our Lord's Passion exhibited on the walls of schools. Nor am I afraid in England of the silly fanaticism brought to light by Dr. Rigg in a catechism composed by a gentleman of the name of Gace. If Dr. Rigg thinks that this sort of thing can spread widely in the face of an open Bible, and in times when the laity are likely to take an increasing part in the government of their Church I hope and believe he is too nervous. But in any case the field of contest with such opinions lies outside the walls of Parliament or of any Government department. *Voluntary schools are the best, and, indeed, the only hope of combining good secular education with religious knowledge*; and I agree with Dr. Parker in wishing to have "careful instruction by qualified teachers in distinctive Christian doctrine and morality." But as we—the State—cannot pick and choose what is "distinctive" and also true, we must be content to leave that to the various branches of the Christian Church and to deal with them all equally as our best and, indeed, our only agents in that great work.

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