

EDUCATION MINUS RELIGION.

Christian people will awake one of these days to the acknowledgment of the fact that education without religion is a contradiction in terms, being no education in the true sense of the word, but a powerful means of preparing our youth to accept and forward the schemes of secularists and infidels.

We append an extract from a recent letter of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford, England, where the board schools are aiming at the closing of voluntary schools in which religion has its due proportion in the public instruction.

The Bishop handled his subject with the grasp of a statesman.

"I express my deliberate conviction that the board school system, armed with its present powers and destined in the mind of its champions to become universal, is the most subtle and fatal dissolvent of Christianity that has ever been set up in England, by Parliament, since the reign of Elizabeth. It is the legal negation and proscription in national education of doctrinal Christianity, and of the certainty of Divine faith.

The compromises, introduced by worthy Protestants who recoiled from the logical conclusions contained in the system, are powerless to prevent the evitable result. The watery nature of their school board religion is an essentially different article from the strong, definite, saving salt of Christianity.

The secularist and political cry for universal and compulsory board schools—for a uniform national system of popular education—means

much more than compulsory and universal education (with which I have no quarrel). It means that the rights of Christianity—let me say it plainly, that the rights of our Lord Jesus Christ as the Teacher and Redeemer of mankind—shall be excluded from their place in our schools. It means that Christian parents and their children shall be wounded in both their civil and their religious rights and liberties. It means the formation of the youth, that is, of the people of England, in one procrustean educational mould, from which dogmatic Christianity has been excluded. This would be a disaster of the gravest kind in the natural order. It would also be a national and deliberate apostasy, for there is no Christianity which is not definable and dogmatic."

It is to be hoped that when this manly struggle shall have reached its successful issue, despite the influences of a temporary unpopularity, it may not be found that other Christian bodies have small claim to the gratitude of a rescued Christianity.

The national church in England is vigorously working in behalf of voluntary schools, as are also some of the other Dissenting bodies. The same can scarcely yet be said of Protestants on this side of the Atlantic.

Australia is the only country in the world to which ruminating animals are not indigenous, and yet cattle and sheep of various breeds thrive there amazingly.

God always has an angel of help for those who are willing to do their duty.