

point of intelligence, but this is the ideal at which all should aim, and to which many may attain. How else is education to be improved? Experience shows that the mass of men think little on the subject, and experience also shows that nothing, unless it be a bad system of religion, holds on with such grim conservatism as a bad system of education. I regret on many grounds the establishment in this country of separate schools, among others this one, that they will be less open to improvement. "A habit or ceremony," says Addison, "though never so ridiculous, which has taken sanctuary in the Church, sticks to it forever." This is too true of the Church in particular of which he is speaking, and it is therefore the more to be deplored that education, which needs to be quickened by all the new light of the future, should be pledged beforehand to the blind worship of the past. I cannot approve of the proposition lately made in England to exclude all clergymen from the office of teacher, but clergymen, like other people, should keep pace with the times. It is doubtful if they will do this except through the action of educational and literary influences over which they have not absolute control. The teachers, therefore, should be the mouthpiece of no ecclesiastical system, but the agent and leader of advancing knowledge, moulding society as much as he is moulded by it. The great hinderance, I fear, to the teacher's highest qualification is found in the fact that teaching is too often taken up merely as a stepping stone to something else, and this again arises from the fact that teachers are so poorly paid. The talent and enterprise of the land will naturally be drawn into the most lucrative employments.

It is said that candidates for the Christian ministry diminish in number in proportion to the prosperity of other professions. Ministers claim to be impelled by higher considerations, than worldly advancement, yet human motives are seldom free from an earthly mixture, and if this holds in so sacred a calling as that of a clergyman, much more may it be expected to operate elsewhere. Clergymen and teachers are of all classes the most inadequately remunerated. As a rule they have scarcely enough for a decent living while engaged in active labor, and they have a still scantier prospect for the years of feebleness and decline. If my words here to-day will have any weight, I feel that I am pleading the cause of the children and society not less than of the teacher, in urging a more generous support for those whose mission it is to lead the intellectual and moral life of the people.

I shall close these observations by touching upon a subject of the highest moment, but one which we are always in danger of ne-