

The same love of the Bible, and sense of our dependence upon it, are increasing elsewhere; and the very attack and insidious effort of Romanism against a common school education with the Bible, as sectarian, tends to awaken the sensitiveness and alarm of the Christian public on a point in regard to which the people had sunk into too sluggish a security. If we would keep our civil freedom, we must educate our children in the Scriptures. That freedom came to us from the Bible; by the Bible only can we keep it. Like the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, Divine Truth led our heroic ancestors through all the sufferings, discipline, and struggles, by which they established our liberties, and nothing else can preserve those liberties, or the spirit of them in their descendants. We must have a religious education; and if an evil influence should prevail with the State so to change the system to which we have been accustomed as to banish the Bible and religion from it, then the church will be compelled to take it up, as she does the voluntary support of religious worship. In reliance on Christ alone, she has advanced religion more than all State endowments in the world have ever done. In reliance on Christ alone, if compelled into it, she is able to do the same with education. She rejoices in the appropriations of the government for a common school education; but if the condition of such help is to be an oppressive exclusion of the Bible and religious teachings, she abhors the treachery. It would be the death warrant of freedom and religion to put her hand to such a covenant.

There must be an education in religion and morality, or our life as a free people is ended. It is claims from other worlds, according to that noble sonnet of Wordsworth, that have inspirited our star of liberty to rise, and other worlds alone can keep it above the horizon. No earthly expediency, or political management, truckling to the cry of Sectarianism, can save us.