

wounds, rather than receive water from the hands of an English lady. His words were, "Though no man see me drink, God will see it." The religion of the great majority of the people of India consists in ceremonial observances, and in a fancied personal freedom from certain contaminating influences. They are extremely ignorant and proportionately superstitious. They have certainly a general impression that we desire their conversion, and that this will be accomplished by physical means. Thus stories of bone-dust being mixed with the flour sold in the market, and the like, are constantly floating about the country. We are never secure from panics arising from such causes. Does not this, then, inculcate the policy of instructing the people, where they are willing to receive it, as to the real character of our religion? Sound policy surely dictates that we should give them the means of comprehending its principles. We cannot teach them the very elements of our sciences without showing them the folly of their own faith. Shall we, then, sap the foundations of their belief, without giving them facilities for acquiring true knowledge? Can this be wisdom? It is said that the work should be restricted to the missionaries. But what can a few missionaries do among hundreds of millions of people? I do not desire to see the Government undertake the duty of the missionary; but that when the parents of children belonging to our schools do not object, and masters are able and willing to instruct, the Bible should not be prohibited. Government, as regards the extension of our faith, cannot really remain neutral. Its influence will either be for or against its progress. Under the most favourable auspices, that faith will not spread very fast; the probability rather is that its progress will be lamentably slow. I myself believe that sound policy, as well as our duty to God and to man, demand that we should give facilities and encouragement to the spread of Christianity in India, and that the introduction of the Bible into the Government schools may be effected in many places, with the full consent of the children and their parents, by teachers who have their heart in the work."—*From a speech by Sir John Lawrence.*

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