

be fairly understood, and they will win their own way. They are perfectly within the province of the pulpit, nay, are within the line of its duty. It is not probable that absolutely the best methods have as yet been discovered or adopted. General thought and investigation will probably improve them.

Any who wish to learn more fully in regard to the nature and aims of the Civil Service Reform can do so by addressing R. H. Dana, Esq., 30 Court street, Boston, Mass.; William Potts, Esq., 35 Liberty street, New York City, or Herbert Welsh, Esq., 1,305 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa.

#### Our Public Schools.

ONE of the greatest services that a journal can render to the community is the gathering of the opinions of specialists on any given question of public interest. *The Independent* has been particularly useful in this respect, and its number of Aug. 29, giving such a symposium on "Our Public Schools," is one of the most valuable that we have seen.

The questions sent out covered the whole ground of public education in four groups. The first group had special reference to the general faults and dangers of our public-school system, calling also for a comparison with that of the countries of Europe. The second discussed free or governmental education, especially in the higher grades. The third group called for opinions on the condition and needs of education in the South, and the fourth brought out the problem of religion or sectarianism in the schools.

The writers are from every class and every section of the country, including J. W. Dickinson, Secretary of the Board of Education of Massachusetts; J. L. M. Curry, Secretary of the Peabody Fund; Geo. W. Cable; Gen. S. C. Armstrong; President Wm. F. Warren of Boston; Bishop John J. Keane, rector of the Catholic University of Washington, and many others.

The value of the articles does not consist so much in the completeness of the discussion, for that must be necessarily very fragmentary, as in the suggested topics. The very list of questions would be invaluable for a debating society, and far more practical than general discussions on the rights of men, etc. Whether

one agrees with the views of the writers or not, it is also of great value to know how such men, all of them intensely interested in the practical results of their efforts, look at the questions they discuss.

WE have received the following note

From Dr. Joseph Parker, London.

MAY I be allowed to state in *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW* one or two things respecting my ministry, in answer to many communications from America? *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW* happily connects one with all parts of your vast country and thus entails upon one the very welcome impossibility of working postal miracles. As to my life-work, "The People's Bible," your readers are kept well advised by your model advertisement and your most liberal offer. I wish to point out that "The People's Bible" is the only *spoken* commentary with which I am acquainted. It is not elaborately composed with a view to literary display, nor is it a pulpit portmanteau into which a man may put all kinds of odds and ends, principally belonging to other people; it is a repertory of pastoral comment in which the broadest truths are earnestly applied to the daily experience of Christian life. I must add that my American ministerial readers have greatly encouraged me by their appreciation of my endeavor to make the Bible a genuine *people's* book. The official priest I hate, as an enemy of God and man. The favor with which "The People's Bible" has been received has led me to issue a companion volume under the title of "The People's Prayer Book," with a view to the cultivation of family worship. I have endeavored to meet all the requirements of family life not only by supplying general prayers, but by specializing to a quite unusual extent. When families are praying, churches will be prospering. I have a parent's corner, a children's corner, a corner for those who cannot attend public worship, and special prayers for children leaving home, sickness, death, harvest, New Year, weddings, servants, travelers, and the like. The book will be ready about the middle of October.

JOSEPH PARKER.

THE CITY TEMPLE, July 10, 1889.