

is simply to provide for them the means of learning.

There is probably no nation at the present time that furnishes so large a number of learned men as that of France, and few nations, if any, that wallow so deeply in vice: Sabbath desecration, plays, the theatre, and every kind of senseless exhibitions are patronised by all grades of society, from the monarch to the peasant, while the general state of even intellectual education is at a low rate among the humble classes of society. However, one encouraging feature in the case is, that the youthful mind is favorable to moral culture as well as the acquisition of knowledge. There is a susceptibility disposing the young to imbibe and profit by instruction. Hence, such instruction should be imparted as will enable them to form good habits—for habit is powerful—and act with justice, truth, kindness, and charity:—in other words, fit them to become proper denizens of this world, with a view to a blissful immortality. The subject of Christian education claims the serious attention of every well-wisher to society; and we are glad to see men of influence, like Sir Culling Eardley and Lord Shaftsbury, turning their attention to this important subject. Their sentiments on the subject of the bible in the schools of India are fully applicable to any other country, and read as follows:—

**EDUCATION WITHOUT RELIGION.**—At a recent meeting in London, Sir Culling Eardley said, in reference to the future policy of the government towards the use of the Bible in schools in India, that if the government did meddle, it should only meddle in the way of encouraging Christian schools; that if the government had schools of its own the Holy Scriptures should not be excluded from them. If that principle was good for schools supported by the government, of

course the moral obligation was equally applicable to schools assisted by the government. And if it was sinful for a Christian government to maintain a school in which the name of Christ was denied, or from which it was excluded, it was equally wrong, for any supposed secular benefit, to aid in the least degree any schools of infidel or heathen character. The Council had, therefore, come to the conclusion to put forth a resolution urging the government not to originate or contribute to any school in which the Christian religion was not taught. Upon this point he might quote a sentence from a document signed by the representatives of the missionary societies: "Even secular education without Christianity does but furnish the masses with more mischievous leaders, as in the case of Nena Sahib, at Cawnpore." He might also read a letter from Lord Shaftsbury on the same subject:—

Whitehall-place, Nov. 18, 1857.

Dear Sir Culling,—One thing is, to my mind, unanswerable. If the government have schools, into those schools the Bible must be introduced.

But if they do so, will there not be raised in England and India a cry of compulsory proselytism?

The solution of the difficulty appears to be that government should give grants in aid on a liberal scale, and leave to missionaries and others the foundation and conduct of schools.

The government schools are not popular, and I should have very little confidence in their religious teaching.

Yours truly,

(Signed) SHAFTSBURY.

Sir Culling Eardley, Bart.

He quite agreed in that opinion; either that the government must stand aloof altogether, or if it did take part, it should take part as a Christian government ought to do.

## LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF EDUCATION.

ALL acts of the Legislatures touching the subject of education, should be plain, obvious, and easily put in operation; and the public made acquainted with their details, in order to be able to estimate their utility and adaptation, before they become law.

It is no uncommon thing in these colonies, for the legislatures to impose measures, on the most important matters, upon the public, without a tenth part of those interested having any knowledge of the measures until called upon to comply with their workings.