

to that prayer? The theist says no; but the straiter sectaries say, "What satisfies a mere theist does not satisfy me." Possibly not. It is difficult to satisfy some good people; but it satisfied the Lord Jesus when he was asked to teach how to pray, so I rest satisfied therewith in good company. So, too, when, in response to a question as to the great commandments, love to God and to one's neighbour was given in reply, with this pregnant comment: "On these two commandments hangeth the whole law and the prophets." Here is the true religious basis of ethical instruction and life; this ought to be inseparable from all education. The sectarian superstructure may be left for the denominations to erect.

The position taken, therefore, by the writer is this: What is called a purely secular system of education can never be accepted as final; even if attained is a destructive monstrosity; that the religious ethics of Jesus of Nazareth, as taught by Him during his life on earth, affords an ample means of religious instruction in our schools, and form a sure foundation for a life of true citizenship. And that in this direction only can we hope to find a solution of the religious difficulty regarding our schools. And surely it is not too much to hope that even now some endeavour may be made to rise above—yes, "above" is the word—our issues, and permeate the educational systems of our Dominion with a religion that unifies. The honest, persistent endeavour so to do is surely better than the imbecile cry, "It cannot be done."

JOHN BURTON.

Books Received and Reviewed.

The Cyclopedic Review of Current History is a periodical which ought to be attached to every school library. It is a compendium of all that is going on at the present moment in the history of the world. *The Magazine of Poetry* for December is an excellent number. *The Atlantic Monthly* for December is a Christmas gift from the publishers to their subscribers for which they ought to be grateful. The last *Scientific American* that came to us was one of the most interesting we have perused. *The Popular Educator* cannot but increase its great popularity with our teachers by such a number as the December one.

THE COMBINATION SPELLER, by Mr. James W. Shearer, and published by the Messrs. B. F. Johnson Publishing Co., Richmond, Virginia. While the educationist frowns upon the speller as a remnant of the old hum-drum of school-work, the compiler who finds his reward in the number of copies sold does not seem to grow disheartened. This speller, however, is the embodiment of an original method, according to which the learner quickly appreciates the beauties of phonetic analysis and gains confidence in himself. At least, so the author says. We have been told that a new speller has been recommended for use in this province, and thus Mr. Shearer's original idea may find no scope here for some time to come. When