

The United States of America have a splendid materialistic system of education but they also have a very high juvenile crime rate which, educationists say, is the result of dropping the Bible from the schools. The American system of education is not a fair or just one to the child. Roman Catholics and Jews do not get grants to support their schools as they do in England and Scotland, therefore they oppose the Bible being read in the schools, and consequently the child suffers. And again, I found that where Bible reading was given in the American public schools, it was of a very meagre character - simply the opening of the school with the reading of the Bible by the Superintendent; the scholars did not need to have a Bible (as in England); no Bible syllabus is provided for teachers; scholars are not made to memorise portions of the Bible, such as the Ten Commandments; therefore, Sir, an essay on this great subject of Bible reading in schools may in the end affect the moral training of millions of children in the schools who are at present growing up in ignorance of the great laws and high ideals of the Bible.

The total exclusion from the State schools of New Zealand, for about 60 years, of the Bible with its moral instruction lessons has had its effect upon the national character, as is evidenced, partially, by the high illegitimate birth rate. Of the first births of mothers under 19 years of age one in three is illegitimate. For verification of this statement, please see Mr. Butcher's two books entitled "Education in New Zealand", paragraph headed "Illegitimate Birth Rate."

I trust you will consider this question again on account of the Bible's ethical value in schools for the inculcation of moral ideals.

Yours truly,

*Samuel Pearson.*

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