

his fellow subjects. He is clearly of opinion that it is not just, or politic, or commonly decent, for one section of the community, because it happens to be in the majority at present, to put its hands into the pockets of the minority, and extract hard cash for its own exclusive benefit. The editor of the *Evening Star* has not, indeed, altogether abandoned his proclivities in favour of free, compulsory, and secular education. But these have undergone a considerable modification; and for this we, as Denominationalists, are thankful.

The editor of the *Evening Star* proposes that Government should establish purely secular schools, not everywhere, if we understand him rightly, but wherever there may not be a sufficient number of private schools, including under this head Denominational schools; that education should not be free, except for such as are unable to pay fees; that Government schools shall enjoy no advantage over private schools which may be willing to become subject to Government inspection; that so much per head shall be allowed by Government for all pupils who attain a certain standard of proficiency; and that the attendance at school of all children, from five to fifteen years of age, shall be compulsory. This is, we think, a fair outline of the propositions of the *Star*.

On principle we are opposed to compulsion, and we think the end aimed at by its supporters could be obtained in a more natural and a wiser way. But, nevertheless, we do not think there would be any insuperable objection on the part of Catholics if the ideas of the editor of the *Star*, with two amendments, were carried out, embodied in law, and loyally enforced. The two amendments, to which we refer, were probably in the mind of the author of this leader when he was writing it. In order that Government schools should enjoy no advantages over private and Denominational schools willing to submit to Government inspection, provision should be made for the training of teachers for these schools, as well as for those of Government schools; and a better arrangement should be made as to the election of school committees than exists at present.

On these two points our Legislature would do well to follow the example of English legislation. In England the several denominations have their own training schools; and the Government grants annually a certain sum per head for all trained teachers who pass the examination required by law. This appears to be a most just and politic arrangement. There would be no difficulty in carrying it out in this colony. Then as to the school committees, every precaution is taken to at once secure a representation of minorities, and of public opinion. In order to the first, cumulative voting is allowed, and to secure the second, the ballot is resorted to, and voting papers are left at the houses of all ratepayers, and, when signed, collected, and the votes counted by responsible persons.

It strikes us that the system proposed by the editor of the *Evening Star*, modified by the two amendments we have just now stated, would secure justice to all, and meet the equities of the question in the present position of the colony. It would certainly give satisfaction and content to all, with the exception of a very few rabid secularists, secure for every man the expenditure of his own money in the way he desired, and save the Government from an expenditure which it could not honestly meet.

We shall be glad to hear what the *Evening Star* has to say further on this very important subject; and we rejoice to find that the discussion of this question is likely to lead to a satisfactory conclusion. As for ourselves, we can say that we are prepared to accept any compromise that does not call on us to sacrifice principle, and that, this saved, we shall heartily co-operate in working with the Government, and our fellow citizens, in promoting, in every way in our power, the education of the people.

### RETRIBUTION.

THE spirit of the age is a spirit of money getting, and the chief end of man is widely considered to be the acquisition of property. The millionaire is the hero of the day, and the details of his career and the traits of his character are esteemed to be of as high interest as if he were one who, by virtue of a lofty intellect, had raised the standard of a nation, or whose philanthropy or bravery had rescued a people from famine, pestilence, or slavery.

Purse-pride, we are told, is the worst of all pride, and the man, whose mind becomes inflated only by the contemplation of his worldly possessions, is owner of nothing

which can by any accident elevate him in the least above grovelling point. Yet, of late years, many have made a noise in the world, of whom there seems to have been nothing worthy recorded, except that they had been endowed with a wondrous talent of acquiring wealth, and had employed such a talent to its uttermost. But this golden-calf worship is corrupt at the core, and, like many another false creed, is infected with a virus destined to destroy it. The votaries of the idol, while they make their obeisance and are loud in laudation, are secretly devoured by envy, and they are ready at any moment, as we believe it is the case with the inhabitants of certain heathen lands, to severely punish their gods should the occasion arise.

It is interesting to watch the various modifications of the growing enmity of the masses to men of wealth, and to trace its working amongst the impecunious, from the blood-thirsty Socialist on the continent of Europe, to the burster-up who threatens with bankruptcy the plutocracy of Victoria.

"Thou shalt not steal" is a very plain and definite commandment, and it is a difficult task to draw the line at which the property of another may be alienated without his consent, and yet so as to observe the obligations of honesty. It shall be lawful *par exemple* for a king to send out an army and possess himself of a city that has been for more than one thousand years the acknowledged possession of another sovereign, but for a band of *sans-culottes* to break into that king's palace and make their own of all they found there, would be outrageous robbery. This is unreasonable reasoning, and so, indeed, it is perceived to be, and the governments and rulers, that have so instructed the people related to them, have given a deeper lesson than they intended, and are drifting fast to that point at which it will be rehearsed in their ears, all too forcibly, by willing pupils.

In Victoria we perceive, according to the manner of the country and its circumstances, something also of this general war against capital, that bids fair at no distant date to tear the world asunder, and overthrow all existing institutions; and who shall say that the class attacked has not also done its part in stirring up the strife, in which, according to all appearance, it will probably perish? The squatter class has been noted for its selfishness. Throughout Australia tracts of country, that might long since have been covered with the homesteads of a prosperous people, are still populous only with the wild animals of the country. The dummy system and tricks innumerable have been successfully made use of, to secure to the dominant party the enjoyment of expanses of land, wide as principalities, and immigration has been encouraged only as the means of procuring cheap labour.

However dishonest then may be the mode in which it is now sought to dispossess the holders of gigantic estates, or however politically corrupt, it cannot but be felt that they have, in a great degree, brought retribution on themselves, and thus, though we may deplore the immorality of the whole proceeding, we cannot but acknowledge that, if it be successful, the sufferers will but have reaped that which they have themselves sown.

### THE POPE'S JUBILEE.

On the 3rd of June inst. the fiftieth anniversary of the Episcopal consecration of his Holiness will take place—the celebration of his golden Jubilee. The following Brief is addressed to the faithful in connection with the glorious event which is now drawing near. The Brief is addressed "*Urbi et Orbi*," and is as follows—"Pius IX., Pope—To all the faithful of Jesus Christ who shall see these present letters health and Apostolic Benediction. Inasmuch as the Catholic Association of Italian Youth, in addition to the very many and distinguished works of filial affection, which, in union with the other faithful, it continually performs towards their common Fathers, with the object of testifying its zeal towards us, and of returning thanks to God because that, by His Providence and protection, notwithstanding the difficult times through which we have had to pass, we have been brought to our present age with such vigour of mind and body, has considered it right to celebrate our fiftieth Episcopal anniversary in our honour, and desires that it should come to the Christian community with blessings and happiness, we, to increase the fervour of the faithful, and being eager for the salvation of souls, anxious also to second the filial desires of the beforementioned association, by the mercy of God, and by the authority of his Apostles, Peter and Paul, graciously grant to each and all Christians, of both sexes, who, in this year, on the 3rd of June, in any church or oratory, assisting at the holy sacrifice of the Mass, being truly penitent, having confessed, and received communion, shall have prayed to God for the conversion of sinners, for the propagation of the Catholic faith, and the peace and triumph