

The most harmful of all tendencies in modern education is the lack of spiritual training. There is a cynical and pessimistic spirit in our schools. When our young people graduate they ask themselves, What is life worth? To what end is all this activity? Why should I toil for others? These are the main questions of life and the schools do not answer them. Education has become like a race that has no goal. We teach our children to aim to be successful, but we give them no definition of success. We do not lift their ambitions above bread-winning and the accumulation of property. You can't get the guiding principle of life from science. Neither can the study of society as it is and has been tell us what society ought to be. No matter how fine your science work and art may be, if you do not supply students with a worthy life purpose, it is all of no avail. It is like the play of 'Hamlet' with Hamlet left out.

The Chicago *Times-Herald* applied the editorial horse-whip to the hard and selfish materialism which is rampant in the American public schools, and which is almost as conspicuous a characteristic of our own. It said:—

The drift toward materialism in the schools is one of the pronounced tendencies of modern educational endeavor which may well excite the apprehension of the true friends of education. In the public schools it manifests itself in the disposition to relegate language and classics in favor of commercial studies, to give the sciences undue prominence, and to abolish commencement day exercises, examinations, and all other features of school life that have furnished the inspiration and incentive of scholastic achievement in the past. The tendency of the educators is to make concessions to the popular demand for the kind of 'education' that would place the type-writer and the cash register on top of the educational pinnacle.

The Catholic schools, both in the United States and in these colonies, are the Catholic Church's practical protest against a form of up-bringing of children which teaches the young idea to place the higher interests of the soul and the claims of religion in a second or third or tenth place—or nowhere at all, and teaches them from their infant year to regard education purely or chiefly with a view to its monetary value, and to reduce all things to the standard of the pound sterling.

Professor CHARLES L. DANA, of Cornell Medical College, as reported by *Christian Work*, regards Christian education 'from a purely professional and scientific standpoint and as an expert in neurotic disorders.' And he advocates religion in the school 'both as a helpful and preventive force.' The Professor says: 'I cannot undertake to preach a gospel, but I can urge the scientific importance of so doing upon the earnest students of morals and pedagogy of to-day.' 'Here,' says the *S.H. Review*, 'science confirms the wisdom of the Church in insisting that even the physical welfare of the child demands the full and harmonious development of the child's powers—his religious, moral and mental faculties.' Another American Protestant publication, the *Hartford Seminary Record*, in its issue for May, 1900, made the following sound reflections on the enforced ignorance of Christianity which characterises the instruction given in the American public schools and which is equally the scandal of our own boasted system:—

The severance of Church and State in America, however, opens the door to necience concerning the life and character of Him Whom every Christian calendar year proclaims the principal figure in earth's annals. Rome chronologised her events from the founding of the city; Greece from her Olympiads; revolutionary France would have destroyed the Church calendar alone with the State's structure; but every business action in Christian America, consciously or unconsciously, recognises the Babe of Bethlehem and the Man of Nazareth. How strange it seems that in such a Christian nation the severance of Church and State prohibits instruction in the public schools concerning Him Who is the rationale of its every historic record, from the dating of a child's letter to the dating of its treaties! Such, however, is the status of education in our country. Protestant timidity on the one hand, fearful that Jesuitism may make the nation the endower of a sect, and agnostic enmity on the other, jealous of giving a single school-thought to themes that even front on religion, flank on the right and the left the reasonable advance that might be made toward the ethical and historical teaching of Christianity in the nation's schools.

The comments of the *S.H. Review* on this pronouncement of the Hartford publication is well worth reproducing here: it sums up a situation that is common to New Zealand as well as to the United States. 'Yes,' says our esteemed Boston contemporary, "Jesuitism," whatever that is, is scaring otherwise sensible Protestants, who believe in Christian teaching, into the ranks of those atheists and agnostics who hate Christianity and who would make of our country a nation without a God. Protestantism, because of its unreasoning fear of the Catholic Church, is helping to destroy the faith of the nation in JESUS CHRIST. It is aiding the State in its tyrannical usurpation of the rights

of parents, and of the Church. When will our separated brethren cast away this unfounded fear of Catholicism, and go to work loyally with the Church to oppose the atheistic drift of the present day which is so strong in the United States?'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

So far (says the *Bruce Herald*) no tender has been accepted for the erection of the new Dominican Convent in Milton. Several tenders have been sent in, but in each case they have been somewhat higher than was anticipated. The building will be of brick, and the material will be supplied by Mr. George Jones. At present there are some 22,000 bricks on the ground, as well as sand, stones, etc., for the commencement of the work.

We understand that it is intended very shortly to proceed with the erection of a convent for the Sisters of Mercy at South Dunedin, near St. Patrick's Basilica, and tenders for the work will be called immediately. The building will be of brick on a concrete base, and will be two storeys in height. The ground floor will consist of a vestibule 10ft by 16ft with an entrance porch, two reception rooms 15ft by 16ft each, a library of the same dimensions, a chapel 45ft by 20ft with a sacristy 10ft by 16ft, a community room 30ft by 16ft, a novitiate 21ft by 16ft, store rooms, etc., and a corridor 75ft by 6ft. There will be a similar corridor on the upper storey, in addition to which there will be 17 cells, 12ft by 16ft, an infirmary, two bathrooms, etc. The new building, which will be 100ft by 60ft, will be erected to the right of the present convent, and will face Macandrew road. The plans allow for additions being made later on.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

At a sale of city property in Wellington on Tuesday a section, having a frontage of 13ft to Lambton Quay, realised £122 per foot.

Six Maxim guns of the newest pattern have just been landed in Wellington.

McNAB's gardens, a favorite resort of Wellington people, was sold last week for £5000, not £1000 as was reported in the Dunedin papers.

Mr. J. C. WASON, formerly member for Ashburton in the New Zealand House of Representatives, won the election for the Orkney seat in the House of Commons by a majority of 40.

It is said that Lord Ranfurly, the Premier, and the Postmaster-General will represent the Colony at the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth, which will take place on January 1.

THE entries for the Canterbury A. and P. Show, which is being held this week, eclipse all previous records in cattle, horses, pigs, and industrial exhibits. The total entries are 4391, against 3850 last year.

MR. W. S. REID, who had occupied the position of Solicitor-General for a number of years, terminated his connection with the Civil Service last week. He has retired on a pension of £500 a year. Dr Fitchett, parliamentary law draftsman, succeeds him.

THE Commissioner of Police has raised Sub-Inspector Macdonell, of Greymouth, formerly of Wellington, to the rank of inspector. He will remain in charge of the Greymouth district. Sergeant Black, of Christchurch, formerly of Napier, has been promoted to a sub-inspectorship.

THE rough weather experienced in the early part of last week did considerable damage in various parts of the Colony. It proved disastrous to lambing flocks on the hill stations in Canterbury. In the Ashburton back country reports state that nearly all the lambs are dead, and it is feared that the mortality among flocks in other districts is very heavy.

A SHOCKING accident occurred at the Christchurch Exhibition on Monday when a boy named Andrew Burns, 16 years of age, who was engaged in looking after the Mitchell scroll flourmill, had one of his arms wrenched off. The lad was attempting to run a band over a shaft wheel when the machinery was in motion, and his arm was caught by the belting and twisted round the shaft until it was completely wrenched off.

THE Governor has received the following telegram from the General of Communications, dated Capetown, 30th ult.:—'Australian, which left Capetown for Sydney on October 26, has on board Lieutenant-Colonel Somerville, Lieutenant Collins, and 1257 Private Baghurst, of the New Zealand Contingent.' Lieutenant Collins is son of Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, of Wellington, and was wounded at the battle of Ottoshoop.

THE Waikaiti correspondent of the *Southern Standard* writes:—'The old age pensioners of Waikaiti have forwarded an illuminated address to Mr. Seddon expressing their gratitude to him for having been mainly instrumental in getting the Pension Act passed. The work was intrusted to the nuns in the Convent at Gore, who executed it in first-class style. It is really a work of art, and in every way worthy of the Premier's acceptance.'

THE Minister of Justice (the Hon. Mr. McGowan) has in hand details of a scheme for employing prisoners in planting some of the barren areas in various parts of the Colony. The idea is to select a number of short-sentence men who have a record for good behaviour, and employ them for the remainder of their terms in reforestry work. A trial of the system will be made at Rotorua, where there is a large area of land which has been found suitable for tree planting.

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