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SECULARIZING EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

The president of the British Board of Education, Mr. Birrell, is having his hands full in trying to bring harmony out of chaos in connection with the public school system in England.

We would naturally expect the old established Church of England would object to this, but they seem to have waived that, and it is the Catholics who are putting up the barriers.

No doubt; but Mr. Birrell evidently has counted the cost and knows what he is up against. He doubtless knows that educated England has reached a point where it will no longer stand for a state-supported religious education.

By all means teach your children the tenets of religion—not one religion—but do it at home where they will get a rational understanding of it. The writer was forced to go to Sunday School where he learned religion as it was taught by organized Protestantism.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The time is now approaching when there will be a crusade against Sunday amusements. Those more favored classes, who do not have to put in ten or even three hours a day on week-days, and only a portion of their time Sundays, will try to prevent having ball games, or any other sports on Sunday.

In view of this, the following from the Truthseeker is very appropos. "In an address recently in London, Dr. Emil Reich told his audience how to lessen the drink evil. He said: Open your theatres on Sunday to the people; show them such plays as 'Richard III,' and they will go in their thousands to enjoy it—anyone who has seen 'Richard III,' really well played, knows what enjoyment it is. En-

courage bicycling, love of the theatre, love of amusement, and the occupation of the temperance and teetotal orators is gone. Take away the glass of drink from a man; he'll get another; if he can't get that he'll resort to opium, or, what is ten times worse, tea, because the passion is from within, and counter-actives of the deprivative order will never do; they have always failed. The argument will not appeal to Sabbatarians, who care nothing for the evil produced by their Sunday restrictions on amusements, if church attendance is thereby promoted."

Yes, encourage all good, harmless sports. Remember that "Man was not made for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath was made for man." If the Bible is authority for anything, in connection with the Sabbath, it is authority for its use for anything that is good. What is of more good to humanity than healthy, hearty bodies? How can they be had by the working classes of people if they are going to be deprived of the privilege of going fishing, picnicking, or to any amusements on Sundays, instead of enjoying God's fresh air and a relaxation of their bodies, be compelled to sit in a stuffy church, that has been closed all the week, and only half aired for a little time Sunday morning, and "walk reverently to and from meeting?" Why do not such fanatics as endorse that line add to it: "No woman shall kiss her child on Sunday or fast day."

Freethinkers of all classes, let us be up and doing. Let us inform the religious element that we are willing to admit their right to attend church fifty times on Sunday if they want to. We will admit that we should take our sports far enough away from their churches so as not to disturb their meetings.

We will grant them the right to employ as many preachers as they want to. We will grant them the right to build churches by the hundred, if they will pay for them. But we want them to grant us similar rights. We want them to grant us the right to employ ball players, athletes, balloonists, parachutists, or to go fishing or picnicking if we so desire. We want them to pay the bills of their own churches and the taxes on their property so that we will not be compelled to pay for something we do not care for and we do not want them to compel us to attend church if we do not want to, while we do want them to allow us to have theatres, parks, libraries, excursions, etc., conducted on Sunday. In other words we want a day of rest and recreation instead of a day devoted to worship of an imaginary being who does not show by any of his works that he esteems one day any more than another.

We believe in a day of rest and recreation—not one of compulsory religion. If religion can not come spontaneous, it is worthless. If you have to force men and women to go to church by closing everything else, it is a pretty poor religion and should be dispensed with at once for the good of humanity.

CATHOLICS "INSULTED."

At the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the new House office building in Washington, April 14th, according to the "New World," the Catholics were terribly insulted and in such a manner which would cause them to "sound the tocsin" in which event something is evidently expected to drop from the "15,000,000 Catholics in the U. S."

The New World is a leading Catholic paper, and as such it is supposed to voice the sentiments of a large proportion of its readers and patrons. The occasion for all this is that the Masonic order was invited to "lay the cornerstones." Of course, Catholics abhor the Masonic order. They claim it has placed them in a position where they have been injured not only in this country, but in France and Mexico, and that "every Catholic whose soul is not debauched by commercialism abhors Free Masonry."

We call the attention of our good contemporaries to the old saw: "Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad." Then we want to put them thru a catechism that will probably read differently from any they learned in church.

Q—Who has used religious persecutions for centuries to keep free thought, progressive religion and education in the background? A—Catholicism.

Q—Who brought on the Auto-de-Fe, and caused thousands of deaths of a nature that even the minds of humanity revolt at the thought of, after the lapse of three hundred years?

A—Catholicism. Q—Who has used church "persecution" to compel the world to debauch his manhood by being compelled to vote as his ecclesiastical superiors directed?

A—Catholicism. Q—Who invented the "Holy Virgin" whose embracing arms were the closing of the eyes to be a victim, who me except belief?"

A—A Catholic priest. Q—Who, if they could, would bring back the old "Holy Inquisition" for the purpose of punishing unbelievers?

A—The Catholic church. Q—Do they deny it? They can't deny it, it is too plainly shown in every age.

President Roosevelt reserves the thanks of every man, woman and child in this country for not taking us into consideration when a public event is to take place. Religious bigotry has nothing to do with this nation or its affairs. We would not condemn any man because he conscientiously believes in Catholicism; we would not discriminate against him in any way. But we would act the same towards anyone, of any other denomination. This is not a Christian nation, it is not a sectarian school; it is the people's religion or creed or no creed, and we would oppose a special grant to spiritualists as quickly as we would the Catholics or Protestants of any denomination.

A North Country Creditor.

A small girl recently entered a grocer's shop in one of the suburbs of a large town in the north of England in a shrill voice, "Please sir, I want 'arf a pound of butter and a cheese, and mother sez 'chilling it when father comes home.'" "All right," replied the man, who was used to this sort of request. "But," continued the child, "mother sez she's got to put a penny in the gas meter."

PEOPLES' EDITORIAL COLUMN.

This column is conducted to permit all to express an opinion. Anything that will not expose THE SUNFLOWER to post office censorship, will be published over the name of the author, who takes full responsibility for the utterance. We are not responsible for the views expressed, nor is it likely we will endorse one-tenth of them. Limit your communication to about 150 to 200 words.

UNWISE CONGREGATIONS.

A heresy trial that inculpates itself is that of Dr. Algernon Crapsey at Batavia, N. Y.

Through much unnecessary and irrelevant thunder was expended in the trial—magnifying, mystifying and wearying it along—it proved but the birth of a mouse, tho its parent was a lion. The whole question to be settled was: Has Dr. Crapsey under his ordination vows, the right to say that Christ was not born of the Virgin Mary?

To find the defendant guilty is to place a premium on ignorance. The reverse is self-evident, and the most sensible course that the church can pursue in such cases is to say nothing about it.

Heresy—unless it descends to vulgarity or crankyism—is always an indication of progress or enlightenment on part of the speaker; and to try all such for heresy would soon empty the church of its intelligence. The only interesting preachers today are the heretical ones, and intelligent congregations that own such a one, are wise enough not to institute a heresy trial.—A. F. M.

HE HEALS THEM.

I would like to give my experience in psychic healing.

I recently heard of a gentleman of whom I knew but little, who was confined to his bed, under medical treatment. I felt an inward desire to go and see him, feeling that by so doing, I could treat him and help him. So I went and treated him as directed, and the next day he was up and out of bed, feeling much better. I have given him three treatment from which he has received much benefit.

I was also called the other evening to see a man who was suffering from severe pains in the stomach which prevented him from attending to his duties. I told him he

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would be better in the morning and he went to his work as usual. He said he felt better as soon as I left the house.

This is my first experience outside of my own house. CHARLES HARDING. Woodstock, Ont.

FOLKS WHO SEE THE FUTURE.

In the interest of justice I wish to speak in behalf of those who seem to me unjustly treated. The Aldermen of Buffalo are considering a tax of \$300 yearly on all clairvoyants, mediums, fortune tellers, etc. Already a hearing has been given on the subject, at which a minister of this city declared that "90 per cent of them were swindlers." How does he know? I am not a Spiritualist, nor a medium, nor a palmist. But I am well aware that all of those who ply these callings, are not fakirs. It is doubtful if all the mediums since Bible times have ever swindled half as much as insurance companies and banks and mines have done. This city tried to tax the poor hucksters \$300 per year. Why not tax real estate men who lie about property, and clergymen who preach other men's sermons? Because some deceive, would you class all as such? Then close up shops and liveries and factories and many other things. Hundreds can testify to real gain from those who profess to see the future. Prof. Hyslop says clairvoyance is a gift and cannot be denied. Buffalo, N. Y.

FAIR PLAY.

Whatever we have dared to think that dare we also say.—William Lloyd Garrison. THE SUNFLOWER \$1.00 a year.

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