

Q Aren't the schools and the churches your bitter enemies?

A Their leaders may think they are, but I am impressed only by facts. The truth is this, if you must know it: the churches are my most helpful allies and the schools run the churches a close second.

Q On what specific or general grounds do you make this claim?

A On the grounds that both the churches and the schools help me to convert people to the habit of drifting.

Q Do you realize that your charge is substantially a sweeping indictment of the two institutions of major importance which have been responsible for civilization, in its present form?

A Do I realize it? Man alive, I gloat over it. If the schools and churches had taught people how to think for themselves, where would I be, now?

Q This confession of yours will disillusion millions of people whose only hope for salvation is in their churches. Isn't that a cruel thing to do to them? Wouldn't most people be better off living in the bliss of ignorance than to know the truth about you?

A What do you mean by the term "salvation"? From what are people being saved? The only form of enduring salvation that is worth a green fig to any human being is that which comes from recognition of the power of his own mind. Ignorance and fear are the only enemies from which men need salvation.

Q You seem to hold nothing sacred.