

Mr. Green's opinion was that the secularization of the schools is largely responsible of the evils to be found in the business and social world. Without the Bible, without Christ, without religion, almost without morals, they can only engender atheism and infidelity, and he desired the establishment of parochial schools to counteract to a certain extent the evil influence of the public schools.

The New York 'Methodist,' some years ago, declared the public schools to be 'hot beds of infidelity.'

At the beginning of the year 1889, the Boston 'Pilot' said :—

Let us be just and honest. It is a notorious fact which we should not forget, that thousands of children of both sexes, born of Protestant and American parents, do not receive in this country any religious or moral education.

Dr. Shearer, president of Dawson College in North Carolina, declared in December, 1889, that the non-sectarian character of the schools impeded the religious education of Presbyterian youths. He strongly recommended the establishment of schools to be maintained by the church for this purpose. The Presbyterian synod of California in 1881, adopted a report of the education committee presented by the Reverend Dr. Scott, recommending the opening of denominational schools. In 1862, the superintendent of public instruction for the State of New York reported that the teachers were so lacking in knowledge that the matter had become a source of great embarrassment. In 1873, Charles Francis Adams, jr., speaking of the Quincy schools says :—

In other words, it was evident that after eight years at school, children in general could neither write nor read with facility.

In 1877, a member of the Cleveland, Ohio, Board of Education complains of the system of schools and says :—

There is a positive delusion in the development of our schools.

In his report of 1878-1879, Mr. Ezra Carr quotes approvingly, the following from the 'Atlantic Monthly':—

Two things are particularly noticeable in our system of popular education :

It tends to stifle the taste for literature and the sense of the value of modern history. It is a serious defect. However its most characteristic and common result is a distaste for manual labour.

The Boston correspondent of the San Francisco 'Call' wrote in his paper in 1877 :

A great many people concerned in the administration of our public schools have come to the conclusion that the system in our city is a complete failure.

According to Mr. Richard Grant White, it was established officially in 1875, that the examination for matriculation of candidates for West Point during the preceding twenty-five years had shown a gradual falling off

as far as elementary knowledge was concerned.

In 1880, Reverend Dr. McLean, of the Congregational church, said :—

Throughout the United States there is a continually increasing number of people who are dissatisfied with our present school system.

In 1881, the Boston 'Journal of Education' said :

In many of our large and small cities, the painful conviction is gaining ground that our public schools are not giving us our money's worth and are not realizing our expectations.

Mr. Z. Montgomery, formerly of Oakland, California, and a high official of the Department of Justice in Washington, made a campaign against public schools. He was a Catholic. Yet during his campaign he received many Protestant approvals. Rev. W. D. Blackwell, of Trenton, New Jersey, wrote him :

I am a Presbyterian, but in perfect accord with you on this question of the schools.

In February, 1882, the San Francisco 'Examiner,' in an article on education, said :

One of the most serious questions we have to examine in this regard, has reference to the value of our public school system ; the conclusion to which an impartial and intelligent observer is driven, is far from recognizing the wisdom and efficacy of the school organization maintained by the public.

Dr. Boyce, in his work entitled 'Deterioration and Race Education,' says :

Our present school system kills in the child every natural inclination for physical labour ; it fills the country with place hunters and the working classes feel that the children who are called to succeed them derive no benefit from such schools.

Richard Grant White, in an article in the 'North American Review,' in 1880, gave statistics as to criminality in states where public schools system has been in existence for the longest time. Finally, the National Christian Association, composed of over fifteen Protestant denominations, protested in 1880 against secular schools as follows :

To cultivate the intelligence without improving the moral character is to develop clever men only. The Bible must therefore be associated with books of science and education in all our institutions.

I do not wish to multiply these citations. There are a great number, and they all go to prove, not that the system is to be condemned, for you cannot condemn a national system which is untested, but that outside of Catholics themselves, there are in the United States a very large number of thinking men who perceive in these schools, from which religion is absolutely banished, a grave danger to the state. That is all I want to prove. I am not passing judgment on the system. I am not in a position to do it. But I say that all people are not