

The English Education Bill

Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., addressing a crowded meeting in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on March 15, referred as follows to the English Education Bill: I object on principle to any scheme of contracting-out. What we claim, and have a right to claim for the Catholic schools of this country, is equality of treatment, and the contracting-out means the creation of two classes of schools—a superior class and an inferior class. It puts on our schools—there is no getting away from it—the badge of inferiority, and from the point of view of justice, it seems to me incomprehensible how any man in his senses can say, that it is just to call upon Catholics to pay school rates for the public schools and then pay over again for the maintenance of their own. There has been a great cry within the last few years from certain sections of the population, against what is called 'Rome on the rates'. That is to say, Protestants object to pay for the teaching of the Catholic religion in the Catholic schools. Well, now, I have two things to say about that. First of all, it is no worse to ask them to pay rates for Catholic schools than to ask us Catholics to pay rates for Protestant schools. But I have a better answer even than that. Protestants in England at present do not pay rates for the maintenance of Catholic schools. If the rates paid by Catholics in this country were earmarked and pooled, they would be sufficient to pay for every Catholic school in the country. If the Catholics of this country pay enough to maintain their schools, what is the meaning of talking of making Protestants pay for their schools? They do nothing of the kind. On the second reading of Mr. Birrell's Bill in 1906 I made a suggestion that the Canadian system, the system that is on foot in the Protestant Province of Ontario and the Catholic Province of Quebec, should apply. It is perfectly simple. When a ratepayer in those provinces is called upon to pay school rates, he has to fill up a form, to say whether he wishes it to go to the public school, the Protestant, or the separate school the Catholic. Then all the money so earmarked for the Catholic schools is pooled together, and handed over for these schools, and if there is not enough, the Catholics have to provide the difference, and so far as the Catholics of this country are concerned, I am perfectly sure, they would be ready to take that risk. At present, as I have said, the Catholic ratepayers pay enough to maintain all the Catholic schools; but if that were not so, and were to change in the future, I believe the Catholics would be contented if the Education rate paid by them were earmarked, pooled, and handed over as I have stated, and then find the difference if need be. But I ought to say I do not see that it is an impracticable suggestion. In 1906 I got an answer in the House of Commons: 'That it is all very well in Canada, but it could not be carried out in England.' I do not see why every Catholic who pays his rates, should not be allowed to declare that he wishes his money to go to the Catholic schools, and if that were done, I do not see any practical difficulty in pooling the money. But I am afraid this scheme of contracting-out will place the Catholic schools in a position of permanent inferiority.

The expense of education has rapidly increased within the last few years, and will inevitably increase in the future. The increase under the scheme of the Government will be met in the case of the Protestant schools by an increase in the school rate; but in the case of the Catholic schools it will have to be met out of the voluntary contributions of the people.

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'It won't cure everything, at least, Unless I'm much mistaken.'
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LILY WASHING TABLETS

Domestic

RECIPES FOR CEMENTS.

To mend china, mix together equal parts of fine glue, white of egg, and white lead, and with it paint the edges of the article to be mended. Press them together, and when hard and dry scrape off as much of the cement as sticks above the joint.

Chinese Cement.

Chinese cement may be used to mend glass, china, fancy ornaments, and similar articles. Dissolve shellac in enough rectified spirits of wine to make a liquid of the consistency of treacle.

Cutlery Cement.

Cutlery cement is useful in houses where knives and forks are constantly getting broken from their handles. Four ounces of black resin, one ounce beeswax, one ounce well-dried and finely-powdered brickdust. Melt and blend the ingredients and use in a liquid form.

Cement for Broken Glass.

Reduce quicklime to a fine powder and make it into a paste with white of egg. Add a little whey, made by mixing milk with vinegar. Use the least possible quantity in bringing the edges of the broken glass together.

Japanese Cement or Rice Glue.

Mix the best powdered rice with a little cold water, then gradually add boiling water until a proper thickness is acquired, being particularly careful to keep it well stirred all the time. Boil for about a minute in a perfectly clear saucepan. The glue is beautifully clear and transparent and is well adapted for fancy paper work which may require a strong and yet colorless cement.

Mahogany Cement.

Melt four ounces of shellac or beeswax, then add one ounce of Indian red and enough yellow ochre to produce the required tint. This is an excellent composition for filling up holes and cracks in mahogany. The neatness and appearance will depend much upon getting the exact color of the wood.

Acetic Cement for China.

One ounce of best isinglass, 80 grains of powdered mastic, two ounces of distilled water, four ounces of glacial acetic acid. Soak the isinglass in the water, and when all has been absorbed add the acid previously mixed with the mastic. Heat gently until a clear solution is formed, and bottle for use.

Cement for Cracks in Floors.

Cracks in floors may be neatly and permanently filled by thoroughly soaking some newspapers in paste of half a pound of flour, three quarts of cold water, and half a pound of alum. The mixture must be about as thick as putty. It may be forced into the cracks and crevices with a knife, and it will harden like papier mache.

Whey Cement for Glass and China.

Mix one cup of milk with one cup of vinegar, then separate the curd from the whey and mix the whey with the whites of five eggs, beating the whole thoroughly together. When well mixed, sift in a little quicklime and stir until the consistency of a thick paste. With this cement broken china and cracks of all kinds may be mended. It dries quickly and resists the action of water and heat.

Plaster of Paris Cement.

Make a thick solution of gum arabic, stir in plaster of Paris until the mixture assumes the consistency of cream; apply with a brush to the broken edges of china, and join together. In a few days the article cannot be broken in the same place. The whiteness of this cement adds to its value.

Acid-proof Cement.

Indiarubber melted by a gentle heat, with 6 to 8 per cent. by weight of tallow; keep well stirred; allow to stand for twenty-four hours, then add dry slack lime until the mixture assumes the consistency of soft paste, then add 20 per cent. of red lead in order to ensure perfect hardening and drying. This cement will be proof against boiling acids.

Maureen

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