

erful argument in favor of manual training in the public schools. The majority of children are so active that they develop their own brains and nerves to a certain extent along these lines. Where they fail to do so, we get the tramp and the sloven. It is a physical impossibility to acquire skill and dexterity in any art unless the foundation has been laid in the formation of the motor nerves before the age of sixteen.— [Secular Thought.

Jingoism and Missionary Enterprise.

BY B. F. UNDERWOOD.

It is surprising how jingoistic our missionary organizations and their organs and representatives have become. They demand the annexation of the Philippines as a duty which the United States owes to Christianity and civilization. Many seem to regard a Spanish-American war, not in purpose, but in fact, as a triumph of Protestantism over Catholicism and think that an opportunity to do missionary work in the Philippines, in Porto Rico and Cuba is the great service which the war, if these islands are annexed, will have done for the Protestant faith.

These people wanted the United States to send a fleet to Constantinople to demand at the cannon's mouth that Turkey pay for the damage done by Mohammedans to American mission property in Armenia. For those whose business it is to preach the gospel of peace on earth and good will to men, this was rather a belligerent attitude.

But let this be remembered, that it is no part of the work of our government to assist in missionary work. Our government will insist on payment for the destruction of the property of American citizens who were living peaceably in Turkey. But the wrongs done to missionaries will be dealt with as wrongs done to American citizens, and the means and methods should be left to the government. It will be time enough to send a fleet to Constantinople when all pacific methods have been exhausted for the redress of the wrongs done.

The feeling between the adherents of different religions is often very bitter and it is not always possible for the authority to prevent outrages on persons and property, owing to religious bigotry and fanaticism, when missionary work is undertaken. If a score of Mohammedans should come to an American village and hold religious meetings and gain converts to their faith, they would be entitled to protection as Turkish subjects, but what a riot their labors would stir up. The mosque, even, might be in danger of destruction if the militia were slow in getting to the spot.

Suppose that the sultan should ask for indemnity and the Mohammedan priests should demand that a Turkish fleet be sent here to enforce the demand, would such an attitude be deemed an indication of a fine moral and religious spirit? Our government will obtain from Turkey payment covering the amount of property belonging to Americans which was wrongfully destroyed by Turkish subjects, but it can take up the cause of the missionaries only as American citizens whose rights as such have been violated by Turkish subjects.

The Spanish-American war has no religious aspect for our government. The majority of the people of this country are Protestants. The majority of Spaniards are Roman Catholics. But the defeat of Spain by the United States is not the defeat of Catholicism. Our government cannot favor Protestant missionaries in the Philippines. Such a policy would be contrary to the principles of our government and it would be short sighted. We have had no quarrel with Spaniards as Catholics, but only with Spain as a nation that has by its cruelty and oppression kept up strife on an island near our coast.

Our government has no right to interfere with the religious beliefs of Cubans, Porto Ricans or Phillipinos, and it has no disposition to do so. Yet many zealots would drag our government into a position of quasi-support of a missionary enterprise. These people are at perfect liberty to labor in missionary enterprises on the present lines and under present methods and that ought to satisfy them.

Appropriate Music.

A traveling showman recently said:

"I took out a tableau show some time ago, and I had some queer experiences. We always had trouble getting suitable music, for one thing. I remember that we struck one town where the music was furnished by a seedy, freckle-faced young man, who officiated at a wreck of a piano.

"I asked him if he could think of music appropriate to each picture as it was displayed. 'Certainly he could, and do it impromptu.' The performance opened. He was seated at the piano and he turned to look at the first tableau. It was a representation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Like a flash he turned and began pounding out, 'There's Only One Girl in this World for Me!'"

Remember, if you send us the names and addresses of 25 of your Liberal friends and acquaintances, we will make you a present of a copy of the Torch of Reason Song Book No. 1. This will only cost you a few minutes' work and a 2 cent stamp.

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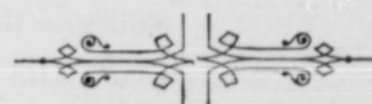
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