

Archbp. of Canterbury (Hammors-Sutton) to H.R.H.
A.A. No. 372.

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Addition
Dec: 10th 1813

Sir,
In obedience to your Royal Highness's commands, I have carefully read & considered
the rules & regulations relating to the British system for the education of the labouring, & manufacturing
classes of the community, of every religious persuasion.

Nothing can be more reasonable than that they who differ from the establishment,
should be at liberty to educate their children according to their own religious opinions;
always premising, that such opinions are consistent with Christianity, & with good morals,
& good order. This I apprehend, is the view which the established Church of this
Country, not claiming to be infallible, takes of the subject.

But surely Sir, there is a broad distinction between individual, & national
education.

The constitution in Church, & State, will be best upheld by a wise, prudent, &

& large religious toleration: but it would be unreasonable in the highest degree to expect, that the Church of the United Kingdom, or any other Church under Heaven, should long maintain its footing among a people educated with indifference to its doctrines, & by necessary consequence, with hostility to its establishments.

I would further humbly submit to your Royal Highness's consideration, that this scheme for educating the people, has a tendency, certainly not in the opinion of those who framed it, but in my judgment, a strong tendency to introduce national infidelity.

The fourth rule, the only rule in which I reject rather of instruction is contained sets forth, that the children shall be taught "reading, writing, & arithmetic; & lessons for reading, shall consist of extracts from the Holy Scriptures; no catechising or peculiar tenets shall be taught in the school, but every child shall be enjoined to attend regularly, in the place of worship to which his Parents belong.

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Doubtless a very excellent code of morals may be extracted from the Holy Scriptures: but if this code be not made to rest upon the sanctions, & peculiar doctrines of Christianity, whatever be the excellence of its structure, & foundations of it, will lie no deeper than those which belong to the morality of the Heathen.

The latter part of the fourth rule may perhaps be intended to meet this objection.

"The Children shall be enjoined to attend regularly, in places of worship to which their Parents belong. If however, nothing more be meant by this expression, than that the Children when dismissed from school, shall be directed to attend such places of worship, in direction for many reasons, will fail of general acquiescence.

But after all Sir, may I presume to ask, is it safe for the State, is it dealing fairly with the Parents of the Children, is it dealing honestly with the Children themselves, to require that they should be sent to their respective places of worship, by those who are intrusted with the whole of their education,

ignorant of y^e doctrines, & creeds, & evidences of y^e religion to which they
nominally belong. These questions apply with equal force to y^e Dissenter,
& to him who is of y^e established Church.

On y^e whole Sir, if this scheme of education prevail, & become in fact,
that which it purports to be y^e British system for educating y^e labouring, & manufacturing
Classes of y^e community, it is y^e conviction of my mind, that y^e ecclesiastical
establishment of y^e Country will be placed in y^e greatest possible danger, &
that Christianity itself, under any form of worship, will hardly be safe amongst us.

I have plainly, & earnestly stated to your Royal Highness, my understanding
of this grave, & important subject; & I pray your Royal Highness to pardon any
error I may have committed in form, or substance.

From your Royal Highness's dutiful & humble servant
C. Carter.