

for Holy Orders and by the children of the higher classes. To meet, therefore, the demand of the others purely municipal or town schools were established, entirely free from Church influence, which aimed at teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, and perhaps beyond this a little Latin.

The Reformation, too, was one of the principal causes of improvement in the education of the people. As a means of justifying its existence, and in self-defence, the Reformed Church set about establishing schools for the purpose of teaching its doctrines to the rising generation; and the Catholic Hierarchy, seeing the advantage of these schools, was instigated to adopt similar measures. But it was not until the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth centuries that it came to be admitted that it was the duty of public ruling bodies to busy themselves with the education of the people, that each parish should deal directly with the subject. Afterwards, at the beginning of the present century, the idea sprang up that the State should have the supreme direction in matters connected with education.