

GOOD TALK.

We want to notice a sentiment, not because it is new nor because it is newly said, but from the fact of who said it. It is from a speech—an after dinner speech—of Justice Harlan, of the supreme court of the United States, at Washington at the Forefathers' dinner on the 22d of this month.

The Justice spoke to the toast: "The public school the gift of the Pilgrims to the nation." After referring to the original statute on the subject which gave as a reason for its enactment "that the old deluder, Satan, was trying to keep the people ignorant," he went on

to a history of the rise of the public school, and closed with the following:

"The safety of the system lays in the absolute non-interference with the schools by religious bodies and with the non-interference of the government with the religious schools. It is no part of the government to teach religion. The government should never pay a cent for the support of religious schools. Let it be remembered that any man is an enemy to our free institutions if he be the enemy of our system of public education."

This will find a ready response in the judgment of every true American, without reference to any creed or sect. We refer to it because of its source. The supreme court of the United States is the highest and most honored tribunal among men, and its members keep themselves aloof from all partisan wrangles and conflicts. But when questions affecting the life of freedom and the safety of free government arise, the judges are citizens and patriots. To read the above from a member of the court, addressed to a popular assembly, shows the great American heart to be in the right place, and that as one man they will stand together when the ark of the republic is menaced. If this school agitation is not silenced and all meddling with them abandoned the result will be an amendment to the constitution settling the question forever.