

We believe that we should not discharge a faithful part to you, did we not also apprise you of the dangerous effects of political excitements. We would by no means undervalue the importance of sound politics, nor of a proper attention to them. But whilst we maintain that the connection of Church and State is anti-scriptural, we should be exceedingly careful how we immerse ourselves as individuals or otherwise in the political contests of the present day. Believing, as we do, that it is next to impossible for a man to engage to any great extent in them without losing to the same extent his spirituality of mind—from the effects on individuals and communities, we are constrained to say that at this time christian effort is to some extent paralyzed. And we too well know the bewitching tendency of such excitements to trust ourselves in their atmosphere, or suffer our brethren to run into them without timely warning.

In conclusion we ask you, dear brethren, shall we give up our institutions, dear to us by many considerations? Shall we shut our ears against the cries of the destitute, and allow our fellow men to proceed in their downward course? Shall we allow, without at least one struggle, one powerful general struggle, our education society to fail, and our youth to grow up without the blessings of that education which we can so easily, so readily obtain for them? Shall we, when we look upon our youth, feel not the necessity of making their religious education a matter of systematic effort? Shall we, when we think of the six hundred millions of our fellow beings bowing down in all the horrid superstition of paganism, calmly fold our hands and leave them to perish in their sins? or shall we awake, and in the strength of the Lord, go forth, and shake to the very foundations, the strong holds of sin and Satan? Shall we persevere in the salvation of the world; or shall we retire from the field, and allow darkness, thick darkness, to overspread our land? And can we proceed, and shall we be successful? Yes, dear brethren, if you please, formidable as those difficulties appear, real as they are, we are happy to say they are wholly under your control, you can remove them. Systematic effort on your part will remove them, and secure our success. Our Sabbath Schools, our Missionary Societies, our Education Societies, may be all prosperous and flourishing. The favours of heaven are showered upon you, the wealth of the earth is before you, the deep is yielding her increase, and the word of the Lord stands pledged at your security.

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