

and practice, must give substantial assent to this definition of Christian education. In words, at least, every Christian holds that the entire man should be trained for God ; that the body as well as the mind should be brought into complete subjection to His laws ; and that every power of the body and mind should be developed in such a manner as will best fit us to glorify God in every thing that we do. To hold any thing less than this is to reject some of the plainest teachings of the Word of God. But to hold this, not as a mere theory, but as an operative and practical principle, means a great deal. It means the doing of a work which our schools and colleges largely if not altogether ignore. But that this may be apparent let me notice more carefully what the definition implies.

It implies first, that education is a growth, a development, a transformation of our being which commences with infancy and continues until we reach mature manhood. It implies that education is the evolution (using the word evolution not in the Darwinian sense) of all the possibilities which God has planted in our nature ; that it is the unifying of these possibilities in harmony with the mind of God, subordinating all to the direction and control of the intelligence and will ; that it is, in short, the crystallization of all these possibilities into a character, which, because of this crystallization, is made to possess efficient intellectual, moral and spiritual power. I say intellectual, moral and spiritual power, not one or two of these, not each taken separately, but the harmonious and co-operative blending of the three. It is only when this blending takes place that each can be perfected and made capable of its highest exercise. The development of such power as this is the first and most important product of Christian education. But such a product, I need not say, is impossible when in the very process of education the moral and spiritual elements of our nature are partially or wholly neglected. And is not this just the state of things that prevails, just the mistake that is made in a large proportion of our schools and colleges ?

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