

cycle whose collective result is seen in the higher view, the broader gaze of uplifted humanity; now, how can a culture be recognized as entitled to high rank whose very name, like that of the ethical school, so-called, is a denial in terms of those great, mighty facts which we denominate collectively as "religion?" All of these schools of lesser thought, if I may so call them, the secularist, the ethical and all the rest, seem to me to be an expression of the feeling which would prompt a man in search of food to go to a full table, ready set and stoop to content himself with a few crumbs which had fallen on the floor.

We are indeed bidden to the table of the Most High, as free and welcome guests, and the refreshment is always ready. All our best selves, love, gratitude, duty, faith, all, contribute to the privilege and the obligation of the acceptance of this invitation; and not the least of the obligations conferred by this sacred call is the fact that it is delivered to us in our own souls, that its greatest witness is the "Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

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### FIRST-DAY SCHOOLS.

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Dear Friends,—As First-day School workers let us consecrate ourselves more fully to the service. Let us enter on the duties of each day with prayerful earnestness. We must drink at the fountain of living water ourselves, if we would lead others to it. We must lay aside self-interest and work for the good of all. Individual opinions and theories should be examined by that "Light that lighteth every man," in order that we may know whether they are from God, or whether they are of human origin. If the former, let us treasure them as gifts from Him. If the latter, let us cast them from us like chaff before the wind or as shells having no kernels in them.

Be steadfast, but let us remember

true steadfastness of purpose is a firm reliance on the Divine arm—a full trust in God as our teacher and our guide.

The guiding of youthful feet in paths of virtue is a sacred duty, and shrinking from it will not relieve us of our responsibility. God requires nothing of us that he will not give us strength to perform. If we see the need of work in a certain direction, we may be the ones he is calling to that work. He knows better than we what station in life we are best fitted to fill, and what work we are able to perform. To doubt our ability is to doubt His wisdom or the all-sufficiency of his strength.

It is true many discouragements present themselves, but if we have faith as a grain of mustard seed and say to these mountains of difficulties which we see looming up in the distance before us, "be removed hence and cast into the sea," as it were, they will vanish as we advance persistently toward them. "But *faith* without *works* is dead." The two must go hand in hand. The reward is not to him that sayeth, "Lord, Lord," but him that "doeth the will."

If we withhold our service and say, "Pray thou have me excused," others will be bidden to the feast, and we will wonder why the door to true happiness seems closed to us, while it is open to others. Let us respond at once to the Master's bidding, even though we feel that we are lame, and halt, and blind. He wants us or he would not call us.

And now let the sincere prayer of each heart be a prayer for a closer walk with God; a more attentive ear to His voice; a more ready obedience to His call, and the reward will be that peace which passeth all human understanding. Then our next school year will be even more successful than the past one.

But we must not look for perfection at once. What we want is growth; "first, the blade, and then the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear" Let us be willing to plant and water, and trust to God for the increase. K.