

Addresses and Papers.

NECESSITY FOR NIGHT SCHOOLS.

MISS BURROWS, HAMILTON.

It is said that true life is activity. If such be the case the fact is here presented, that not only is the privilege granted to us to be co-workers with our Master, but the truth presses upon us that as created beings we have a separate share of labor and responsibility, in assisting by our time and means and directing by our example those of our fellow creatures less favored than ourselves. This can only be accomplished by individual effort and only then have we fulfilled our part in the divine scheme. Blessed are those hands to whom much is confided.

Every year we see more clearly the urgent necessity, civilly and spiritually, of educating the youth of our towns and cities in sound temperance principles and in the power of self-control as well as book learning, duty to their God and duty to man. Let the boys thoroughly understand the reason why. There is so much sin in the world and they will avoid the cause, and abhor it, as they would a reptile. Geologists tell us that to upheave the upper crust the disturbance must commence in the lower strata.

So if we would improve the principles in the upper circle of society, we do well to commence the uplifting in the lower, for daily are the upper places of trust being filled from the lower rungs of the ladder.

In trying to give a higher tone and in elevating one neglected youth to a higher plane, we are not only reaching one tender chord in a parent's heart but the church and state shall feel the impetus in the future. The children to be educated, in many cases, come from the most degraded homes, or are children who early in life are thrown upon the world to earn their own living or supplement the weekly wages of the parent. See to it then that their teachers are such from choice as the labor and responsibility are great, requiring unending patience and gentleness, something to which these children are quite unused too.

This reminds me of an incident that occurred in our own Night School. A teacher invited her class of boys to spend the evening at her home. They looked at her in surprise after such a strange request—then one boy asked, "Say, do ye mean it?"

The work being one purely of moral suasion, beware of sternness or severity for it will not do—you must reach their hearts through their sympathies. It is wonderful how eager some of the boys will be to learn, and the fewer their opportunities have been in the past, the more steadily they will apply themselves to master their lessons. It is in boys of this class, whose early life has been partially or totally neglected through intemperate parents, their only heritage being a pernicious example, that the seed is surely to be planted,—we are to furrow and sow, the harvest shall be bye and bye. It becomes us therefore to be up and doing, for if the workingman is the wealth of the country, these are

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