

and maintained, that a Christian Education does mean an education every step of which is conducted in perfect harmony with this great end. Yea, more, every step of which is conducted so that the entire work has the strictest reference to this end, and is in the fullest sense fundamental and preparatory to the accomplishment of this end. True Christians cannot, consistently with their allegiance to Christ and their profession of interest in the salvation of their fellow-creatures, take any lower ground than this. The final destiny of the soul is of infinitely more consequence than the acquisition of knowledge, of learning, and of a superior preparation for earthly efforts and honors. This every child of God must believe if true to God and to himself, and believing thus, how can he otherwise than insist, that in the process of education in which the whole character is largely moulded and determined, the strictest reference should be had at every stage to what constitutes the crowning glory of a true manhood.

But once more, Christian education is not a system of education in which there is simply a bare recognition of God and of His word. It is passing strange how men are willing to satisfy their conscience in this vital matter with what cannot be otherwise than regarded, by even men of the world, as a mere formality. We insist upon it, at least some do, that a short portion of God's word be read without note or comment and a formal prayer offered at the opening of our schools. Far be it from me to object to the use of God's word or to the offering of heart felt prayers. I cannot, however, shut my eyes to the fact that such opening exercises are, to a large extent, a mere formality. This cannot be gainsaid by anyone who is familiar with what is done in many schools and colleges. Just think, for example, of some of these colleges, having an attendance of several hundreds of young men, calling the daily repetition of a short prayer, in the presence of a very limited number of these men, anything else than a mere formality. Indeed such a course is worse than a formality, it is a positive