

A GRAND SERMON.

BY EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

"Let us make man."—Genesis i: 26.

IN any board of education I should be told that the great object of education is to carry out this purpose of the good God. In any adequate treatise on government I should be told the same thing. And certainly if I turned to the directors of the various churches, to the people who say they are the church, and that other people must obey and follow them, they would say that this is what churches are for—to make men. And probably they would add what this noble legend of Genesis adds: "We want to make men in God's image, after His likeness."

Is it not, then, rather pathetic, that, with all their endeavors, the people whose business it is to make men turn out so few specimens of successful manufacture?

Why are there so few men? And when one changes the sex, and for the work of women makes the same inquiry, the women come out no better. You find a plenty of people fussing over detail, who, as somebody says, cannot tell a small thing from a great one. But you ask eagerly and nobody tells you, where are the women? Where is our steady supply, not exceptional, not a miracle, which shall give "a perfect woman nobly planned?" It is worth while to ask what our five hundred colleges propose to themselves. What do they say is their best achievement? At their annual commencements, from Labrador to San Diego, they say, "We present to you these youths who have acquired skill in Greek or Latin or mathematics, or in the study of nature, or in the study of history." Possibly they will say, "We present

to you this or that hero who has successfully led his crew in a boat race or in a ball match." But there will not be one of them from one end of the country to another which will say, "We present to you this youth who can control his appetites and can govern his mind." That is to say, there is not one of them which will venture to say on commencement day, "We present to you a man." All that my own college says in presenting the bachelor's degree is this:

"We present to you these youths whom we know to be fit for speaking in public as often as anybody shall call them to that duty."

This is the best that has been achieved in a course of study covering four years and prepared for in many more.

A man is not a finely-formed or well-trained physical machine. Physical strength and health come from manhood, but they are not manhood. A man is not a well-adjusted, well-trained—shall I say well-oiled?—intellectual machine. Reasoning, imagination, memory are good tools of manhood, but no one of these, nor all of them, can make a man.

A man is a child of God. No language is fine enough to make the full statement, but this is the best that has been tried. He is gone from God and he goes back to God. "Spark from the divine fire," the poets are fond of saying. "Light from the divine light," that is one of the Bible expressions. "Dewdrop from the divine ocean," that is an image hinted at in the Bible. Man is a living scul. Perhaps I shall not do better than to take this phrase. This living soul has the business of controlling this body, making it strong and quick, active and