

now. There has been a great deal of fine sentiment which was neither scriptural nor common-sense wasted upon the subject—sincerely I doubt not, but mistaken. I have some radical notions with reference to the child. I know the child in the home, of my own flesh and blood; I have known the child in the school a long time as a trained public educator; I have known the child in the Sabbath School from my infancy; I have tried to learn the mind of God with reference to the child in the scriptures as paramount to all human views. There are heresies extant, and not a few with reference to the child. I intend to speak of the Bible and the Child under three divisions: (1) The Child Spiritually; (2) The Child Educationally—as to its Religious Education; (3) The Child Evangelically.

First, then, as to the Child spiritually. I never believed in heredity, even in its physical application, to the extent that I often find it scientifically applied. I have lived to see the child of a consumptive mother an athlete among his fellows; and conversely I have seen a dwarfed and puny form issue from the loins of a giant in strength. Old Dame Nature, hand-maiden of God, has a rare way of slapping us in the face and laughing at us to scorn whenever we attempt to penetrate the secret recesses of her mysteries and take from her secrets and parade them as law. Let no child who comes into this world, no puny body, deformed, lament what seems to be his lot. He may, under the care of the parent and teacher, and wise direction of the physician, come to stalwart life and strength.

Then, I do not believe in the doctrine of heredity, especially as stamped upon the intellect of the child. Have you noted this significant fact that sons of great men are rarely themselves great? Once in a generation a prince in Israel is succeeded by a prince his own son. When God writes into the brain of blind Tom, the idiot negro, a masterful knowledge of harmony; when little Benjamin West pictures his baby brother's face so perfectly that his mother catches him up in rapture; when there are so many phenomena of the intellect that contradict and challenge the doctrine of heredity with reference to the intellect, I have less faith in the theory as a scientific principle. But I am sure of one thing, that however human minds may agree or differ from one another as to the doctrine of heredity in its application to the body or to the mind, if we hold allegiance to the Word of God we are bound by that Word to admit that God has distinctly said again and again that He does not compel the law of heredity to bind the spiritual life of the child. There is no spiritual heredity. Now, that is only what a man says on the theme before him of the Bible and the Child. I ought to, and I shall, read what the Word of God says, and let that be the end of the matter. I will read from Ezek. xviii. 1-4: (Reads.)

"The word of the Lord came unto me again saying, What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying,