

that the schools are religious. The law permits them to be so, if the people desire them to be so. There is nothing in the law to prevent any Board of Trustees from being careful to appoint a person of Christian character to teach. There is nothing in the law to prevent the trustees giving their teacher to understand that they not only desire the religious exercises which the law prescribes to be used, but that they desire the teacher to impress on the young minds the authority of that divine law which they are required to teach them, once a week. That they desire him to enforce his instruction by a reference to the principles of the Christian religion. And there is nothing in the law to prevent, but there is a distinct provision to encourage the ministers of the different churches, giving all diligence to see that this is done. The church to-day is disposed to lean too much upon the Government, and to ascribe to a defect in the law that which is due to the weakness not of the gospel but the ministers. The church should make her influence felt much more in this field. Christianity is the educating element of the world. The churches which exist alongside of the school as ours do, and yet do not make their power felt in moulding the education given in the school, are churches which are weak. Weak in intellectual power and in spiritual power.

*Again.* The religious life of the family in our parent churches was due to their teaching. They held that it is in the home that the beginnings of character are made. The home has the chief influence in making a religious and moral people. To make good men is to make good citizens. That was the theory. The church set herself more to the attacking of sin in the heart than to crusades against particular sins.

It is not a successful method of work to divide up the sins of the community too much, and letting sin alone, to make a great stir over sins. It is injurious to the conscience, and has been so in this land, to magnify one sin, to the hiding of others.

The avarice which is the root of all evil, lies comfortably undisturbed in our churches, while the offspring of it in particular instances, is assailed with exaggerated violence. Let us remember that it is only by attacking sin we will get rid of sins. The life of a people is measured by the life of the home. The church is responsible for the character of the homes, the state is not. Such is the wide spreading influence of a living church. Such the work that is to be done at home. To do her work effectually requires the indwelling in her of the Holy Spirit. As one working in the field I simply add my testimony to that of others when I say, that the great duty to which we should address ourselves, is to maintain at a high standard the religious life of the people.

What is needed is that we should unite in one great effort to lift up the whole church to a higher plane of life. Not separating

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