

says: "A religious and moral education is the great want of a people." This was a deduction, not a theory. He derived it from the experience of the past, which demonstrates that all the learning, art and power of man combined have been impotent to elevate the world *morally*. No wise man has ever been able to effect such a result by legislation, and no strong one by power. Multitudes have tried, but all have failed, and the reason of the failure has been the want of the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

True as all this undoubtedly is, and though it is the recognition of this principle which has made England, Germany and the United States what they are to-day, yet every day the question, how to connect sound Biblical instruction with the teaching of our Common Schools, is becoming more and more involved. Each denomination naturally wishes to have its own form of doctrine inculcated; but as this is found to be practically an impossibility, the result is a tendency to divorce religion from secular training altogether, and to leave religious teaching to the energy and piety of individual churches themselves. A man may demand of the State that it should afford his child a sound secular education. He has also the right to demand that his child be brought up with the knowledge of the Word of God; but he cannot possibly, on any ground, demand of the State that his child should be brought up as an Episcopalian, or as a Presbyterian, or in fact as a member of any denomination. The State would ignore the claim at once; indeed the tendency is now to go further still, and deny the right to have any religious instruction whatever. Now, if we were Athenians or Spartans, the most we could do in that case would be to train up our children in all the learning, customs and hopes of an age that knew nothing of truth, of eternity or of God. But we are not. We are, or we profess to be, Christians, and as such we are bound to do all in our power to implant in the minds of our children the knowledge of that Gospel by which alone we ourselves have been illuminated and saved.

Recognizing this great principle, and believing that the Sunday School is the best place in which to impart this information, it should be your highest aim to