

"The Common School, the Normal School, and the University, are the endowments of the State. The urgent necessities of the State created them. They are our common heritage. With my whole soul I protest against their perversion to give power into the hands of any sect, or party, in the State. The difficulty is not as real as we think. Our own bitter jealousies have blinded us to a whole world of Christian Truth, which lies behind this chaos of opinion, which has divided us into Sects. The things wherein we differ are our opinions, and the opinions of one class of men can never become the bond of union for all men. I would as soon believe that, because all men had the same features, their faces must be cast in the same mould, as to believe that all opinions about Religious Truth must be alike. I am sure that the things that keep us apart are for the most part things which never have been, and from their nature never can be, of the essentials of the faith. I am sure that whenever we realize this, and long for a regained brotherhood, we shall begin to feel heart beat against heart, and hand be joined unto hand.

"There are truths that underlie all obligation. The Teachers of this day owe it to themselves and to their work to strive to get out of this din and conflict of sectarian strife into a higher atmosphere of faith.

"It is not sectarian for the Teachers of a Christian State to teach its children that there is a God. It is not sectarian for the Teachers of a Christian State to look to God to help to teach helpless childhood to look to Him for help. It is not sectarian for the Teachers of a Christian State to tell His redeemed children of a Saviour. It is not sectarian for the Teachers of a Christian State to teach childhood's dependence on God's grace, reverence for His Law, and to confess His holy Name.

"We are a Christian Land, or we are not. If not, we owe it to ourselves and our Homes to bow our heads and hearts in humble acceptance of these truths. There can be no reason why unbelief shall seal our lips to the Truth of God. If any Church, or Sect, of professed Christian men, object to such simple faith, it is because they fear a Christian Teacher's care will disarm the prejudice which is the corner-stone of their creed. For myself, I ask nothing which I am not willing to concede to every Christian man. I am willing to take my place beside any Christian Labourer in the State, and I pledge him every sympathy of my heart. If I have said one word more earnestly than I ought, I crave your pardon. God knows I would not wound any heart. I know of no civilization which I desire for my Home save that which comes by the Religion of Jesus Christ. So long I to see every nursery of the State a Christian School.

"We are working out one of the greatest problems of this world's history. It is a marvel that a Continent like America should have been for so many thousand years unoccupied by civilization, and more strange procedure of God, that after Spain, France and Holland had taken it under their possession, it should be given from the North to the South, and from the East to the West, to the race that represents Constitutional Government the world over. There are times in the world's history when races of men stand in peculiar relations to all other races. The great characteristic of the Saxon race at this time, is that it never loses its individuality. You may place its children in the Isles of the sea, in Africa, or India, and they are Anglo-Saxon still. In this land they are receiving unto themselves the people of every tongue and clime and kin, and in two generations their children are as one with us, and they have received our traditions, our customs, and our Laws.

"In these Valleys of the Mississippi the fusing of nations into one family ought to teach us that there will grow up here a race of men more powerful for good, or terrible for evil, than any other people on the face of the earth.

"My fellow Teachers, in such a field God has given us our work,—it is to lay broad and deep the foundations of a Christian State, which will soon have its million of souls. Do all work unto God. Plant your feet in His truth. Be His soldier to hate all shams and cant and cunning lies,—to be sure in thought,—in word,—in deed,—to have that gentleness, which is learning as a child sitting at Christ's feet, and that patient toil which knoweth how to work and wait, believing in God's promise that