

these questions will be equitably and lawfully settled; if not, then the greatest struggle the world has ever seen must settle them; and you are those whose high duty it is to give that training that will bring about the one and prevent the other.

Are the powers of air, earth, water and electricity to become altogether the servants of man; are the generations to come to be blessed with all that science and invention might do to alleviate pain and ameliorate the condition of mankind? Then our children must be taught to *think*, that these problems may be solved; and yours is the duty to teach them to think.

If you accomplish this, even though they may not have learned to construe a difficult sentence in Latin, or to analyze a troublesome grammatical puzzle, you have done for them that which is of much greater value; you have made them capable of reaching the highest rounds of usefulness and fame, because they have learned to think.

Are the higher powers of mind and the independence of thought of our times to lead men into the realms of doubt or the darkness of atheism? It depends largely upon the training which our children receive at your hands, and the example which you set them by word and deed.

Are our legislative chambers, our courts of justice, our municipal and other minor offices to be filled by men who honour the constitution, who hate injustice and oppression, who are proof against bribery and corruption on the one hand and the sinister influences of pride and ignorance on the other, who are wise to see the right and fearless to do it regardless of consequences, who love their country and its prosperity so much that they are ready to sacrifice their ease and leisure to advance its interests? Then must our children be taught to honour our laws, to love our native land, to respect those in authority, to love truth, to hate deception, to take an interest in the politics of the country, to have right views on such questions of political economy as every intelligent boy and girl can comprehend.

And who are to give them this training? Not the parents, who are sometimes barely able to furnish the daily bread that sustains them, and who, in thousands of instances, are ignorant of these very things themselves, and hence could not instruct them, if they would; not the clergy, who have the high offices of their sacred duties to perform; not the Sunday-school teachers, who have their own special work to do.