

the power of God to the universe; to fail necessitates the bringing in of others to fill places which it is our privilege to occupy.

Let us hasten in this matter of the education of our children. We are often inclined to censure others for not accepting at first sight truth connected with the Sabbath which lies very close to our hearts. Watch unto prayer, lest, while condemning others on one point, the thing most needed to bring the power of the Spirit, without which all other moves are lifeless—the principles of Christian education—be passed unheeded or but slightly touched. Every church needs the blessing; every church should have its own school. “To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

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#### THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

In the minds of many there is no distinct idea of the fundamental principles of Christian education. They understand but faintly the meaning of the expression, and when using it themselves, are in doubt as to its full significance. It is time for the subject to be fully comprehended, or at least to appeal definitely to the minds of those whose hearts respond to the love of God.

Looking over the world, we find that sin has reversed the order of many things. Often those operations which we consider natural, because of long

acquaintance with them and the ignorance of all others, are the very opposite of the original working of nature. We look upon rain as the natural method of watering the earth, but years passed before man ever saw a rain-drop. Clouds, to us, bring relief from heat, but once no clouds marred the beauty of the ethereal blue. Originally the precious metals lay on the surface of the earth; now men think it quite natural that they should be found beneath mountains of rock.

Once fathers and mothers were the only human teachers for their children; but to-day the mother who does not hurry her four-year-old flaxen-head to the kindergarten is considered unnatural and not up to the times in her ideas. Once God and his works formed the center of thought and mental progress, but to-day our sons and daughters consider it quite the natural thing to make the study of spiritual matters decidedly secondary.

To the young of this age God is again offering his system of education, and it as far exceeds the one now in practise as his ways always excel man's ways. The world has developed a system of instruction befitting its needs. Sparta wanted soldiers, and she educated with that end in view; Athens wanted athletes, and she educated accordingly. America wanted freedom of government, and her system reflected the public mind. Citizens were needed who would be loyal to public sentiment; the public schools responded to