

Bonair, Howard Co. Iowa

July 13 1893

Dear Sir

I have been a deeply interested occasional reader of the Bystanders Inter Ocean letters on Southern affairs and lately on the Sabbath opening of the Fair. I think you do not exaggerate the loss of interest and nonattendance by the most conscientious class of American citizens. I did propose that four of my children (teachers), myself & my wife if she chose, should attend, but for the sake of Christ and America none of us will go.

A Principal of a successful Seminary where my sons attend in Wisl. long since announced his purpose not to attend if it opened on Sabbath. You know the probable effect on students. I lately met a

a prominent Methodist minister enroute to Chicago, who said he should not go in the Fair. When such leading editors as Dr. ^{of N. Y. City.} Buckley, publish with pain their purpose to sacrifice attendance for the moral interests of the country, the effect must be important.

In my extended acquaintance, I am confident the loss of interest and determination not to attend is widespread.

I regard the course taken by the Managers a great injustice to the Class who have law, tradition & precedent largely on their side.

Very truly,
C. M. Damon.
Pastor F. M. Church

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

BY C. M. DAMON.

There is a broad distinction between a strictly Christian school and an ordinary one. The Christian school teaches science, philosophy, history, in their relation to God as creator, preserver and governor of the world. It sees God in providence, in history, in principles of statesmanship, and inculcates all this truth. It freely imparts the knowledge of God from the strictly Christian standpoint in dealing with moral philosophy, civil relations and duties. The Christian school determines to influence character as well as inform intellect. It spares no pains to insinuate and openly inculcate the spirit and mind of Christ. Hence it provides experimentally Christian teachers, that by their influence and that of patrons and managers there may be created the very atmosphere of pure religion. The child will drink it in with his studies. He will imbibe almost unconsciously love for virtue, hatred for vice.

In the study of physiology and hygiene he will learn, under the influence of such teachers, to reverence his body as the temple of God. In the study of social ethics, he will realize his obligation to temperance, chastity, the Sabbath, pure government as opposed to secretism and monopoly, national arbitration as

opposed to war, etc. He will thus be qualified, if he will, to take his place in society as a virtuous citizen. He will learn the relation of the family to society and government, its place at the base of national existence and prosperity. And he will learn that to sustain the relation of parent, and discharge its duties wisely and well is a first demand of life, and hence that the education required by patriotism and an enlightened conscience must impart instruction relative to these high duties and responsibilities. Only the truly Christian school will give the kind and quality of instruction requisite to a successful place in the government.

In addition to these considerations is the effect upon the child of those associations and too often vicious influences of the ordinary school which are largely restrained by such a school as we are considering. Profanity, vulgarity, wrong tempers, corrupt books, papers and pictures, and the direct suggestion of impure thoughts and acts, in the relations of school are apt to leave a moral blight on the character never to be effaced.

Christian education is of vital importance to the salvation of the country. There is a mighty conflict going on in the land between the forces of good and evil. Great effort is being made to exclude the Bible from the schools; and then to break down the school system of the country itself. In this dangerous and deadly work infidels and Romanists join

hands. The saloon element of the land seeks also to destroy the Sabbath. In this they are abetted by the government, which licenses the one, and runs its mills on the other.

Secret societies disturb the relations of men in business and government. They dictate to the laborer, derange traffic, destroy property, prevent justice, corrupt politics, threaten life, and blight reputation and character. Yet they are chartered by government, recognized in high places on public occasions, and so are made honorable and fatally influential. Vanity and extravagance appear in social life; and monopoly and unrighteous control of trade and the money market, oppress the poor, multiply millionaires, and foster caste distinctions in society. Great corporations trample on the Sabbath, and the nation refuses to be governed by the law of God.

The ballot is so readily given into the hands of ignorant and often vicious foreigners, and politicians for votes and power so truckle to their un-American and anti-Christian ideas, that our institutions are greatly endangered. Corrupt divorce laws threaten the dissolution of the holy ties of the family, and thereby undermine the very foundations of Christian society and of the nation. These vices of society and corruptions of government must be met and defeated by Christian education. This is one of the agencies the Church must seize upon

and use for the promotion of pure religion. This requires the Christian school, which must be multiplied and sustained by the sacrifice and prayer and faith of God's people. True education includes the moulding and training of character. For this the Bible is the standard and text book. It must be honored and used, Christian teachers must seize the appliance of prayer and secure the enlightenment and help of the Spirit. To promote this is a great work. Will you help us?

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Rev. C. M. Damon, ^{Ex-} Editor.

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—ORGAN OF—

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