But the question is what is basal, fundamental, radical, vital.

The answer of one school of opinion is first Environment - a condition favorable to right development. Man is at heart right, and if we can but abolish one set of conditions, and furnish another we can save mankind. And such minds quite naturally and not uncommonly think the Church of Christ has failed of its mission, and her ministers, Evangelists, teachers &c a lot of purblind fanatics, and worse who "cannot see 'till half mankind are like themselves possessed."

The other school are of opinion that "ours of the heart are the issues of life," that "ye must be born again."

This coterie of believers hold that with the new birth there comes the

divine grace and power to create the environment essential to the welfare of mortals.

I can guess, my dear Sir, that this sounds to you like preaching, but my intention was only to make explanation of the position of such as I may perchance represent.

It might be truly said that some of us are hopelessly committed to the view, theory, theology, or what not? — that the "Basis" of morality, fatherhood, sonship, Citizenship — the Basis of it all is the regenerated life.

Nor do we advocate a faith without works, but the rather a working faith. We do not disparage well-organized, parkhurstian determination to seize the the devil and his crowd by the windpipe; on the contrary we are "in it." but the rather to save both victims of sin — the

guilty and the innocent.
And please do not accuse us of
only caring for Man's well-being through-
out the eternities! We want to
make good fathers and mothers and
children; good citizens; good statesmen
and the like.
Our fathers and mothers knew nothing of
Sociology - but, by the blessing of
God and Science they instilled
that love of Him and knowledge of
his mind for us that at length brought
our lives into blessed subjection to His!
They did not, indeed, all that
needed to be done for their children,
"but if the tree is good the fruit will
be good also."
Schools of Christianity, Economics, Ethics are
all right if there is any Christianity
to apply; but the idea of a Christianity
that is not applied, can only be the

presumption of a person possessed of the letter, but wanting the life of the Servant of Jesus Christ.

The idea that "we will undertake to apply Christianity" — "is but a" pagan's dream. Virtue is constantly going out of the Christian; he is a school of applied ethics, and so on; a center of power, about and above which the golden grain is sure to wave a yellow harvest.

But we do not despise even greater efforts we claim, and aid if possible when they be.

In short not only is Jesus Christ the actual Savior of mankind, in family life in commercial social political life, but He will have mankind to know that Salvation is with him not with a sect, a clique, a social thing; to know that Salvation is primarily and essentially an affair of Character of the mind and soul.

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Yes, Doctor, I think your language is very strong, and yet I can but feel that they who faithfully and lovingly present to their fellows the "despised and rejected" One, the Crucified Son of God and Man who sent them over land & sea to preach the Gospel to every creature, I do sincerely believe that the "foolishness of preaching" - as it has before been termed - is the agency that God has blessed, the agency that He will continue to singularly own in Spreading the Kingdom and in rescuing humanity.

And while my confidence is in the sincerity of those who hope for the success of other agencies, and while I can and do ask Him to somehow use them all, I am daily more profoundly persuaded with St. Paul

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that "there is no other name given amongst men whereby we must be saved."

This only to explain why some "ministers" did not venture to write for the "Bacon" Prize. We know that "the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness" - I Cor. 1.18. Christ's word, Paul's and ours is not always well received. "They besought him that he would depart from their borders." "They charged him not to preach again in the name of Jesus." "They dragged him out of the city" &c. yet He was their Savior, and they His bondservants.

Yours in the faith, and the enterprises of Jesus Christ

John B. Laurens

Clermont N.H.

June 11th 1895.

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