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THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF AMERICAN CHILDREN.

BY REV. LUTHER ALLAN WEIGLE, Ph. D., D. D.,
Sterling Professor of Religious Education, Yale University.

This article has been made up by combining portions of two lectures selected from a series of eight lectures delivered by Dr. Weigle the last of January, 1925, on the James Sprunt Foundation. All eight lectures are soon to appear in book form under the title, "The Christian Education of American Children." This book, we venture to predict, will be accepted as a leading authority on the vital subject it discusses with such remarkable breadth and penetration.—Editor.

The issues involved in the mutual relations of religion and education confront the present generation with a problem that is world-wide and of the utmost significance. The growing divorce between education and religion is in the judgment of many clear-sighted and responsible men one of the primary causes for the present distraught condition of the world. They

EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

BY REV. CHARLES H. PRATT, D. D.,

An Address Delivered at His Inauguration as Professor of Missions and Evangelism, Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Kentucky, Louisville, Ky., Sept. 24, 1924.

Is a deep and real return to Christ near at hand? I mean one that has a lyric quality, a joy, an abandon such as our generation has not known. Does not the history of Christ's Church in the world entitle us to believe that a day will come when perhaps not all God's people will be prophets, as Moses desired, but when at least there shall be a song in the hearts of a great multitude?

The Church has been likened, in this generation, to men going through a dark underground passage. Here and there seem to be forms that intend them harm, and strike out at them. It may be they are only other wayfarers like us trying to find the way home in the gloom. At length the wayfarer emerges to find overhead an arching sky and the aspect of a friendly shore. The Church of Jesus Christ has been in a long night. A time when something speaking in the name of Science and Business has, it seemed, bidden man live by bread alone. Every day makes clearer that we shall either live by the living Word of the living God, or else there will not be even bread or the desire to eat. The husks of Materialism have been tried and found wanting.

I do not say that this great and lyric return to Christ, when once again churches and cathedrals will not hold the worshippers, is just at hand, but I say it is coming; that many in all walks are looking for and expecting such a time.

The literature of our time indicates it. Whether in the daily paper, the novel, or the more serious book, religion is the one insistent and ever-recurring theme. The frank and avowed pessimism of those writers and magazines where Christ is reject-

ed is itself an evidence that a return is near. The most popular themes in the theatres are religious ones.

Science and its son, Industrialism, for the first time has a look on its face that seems to ask: "Am I leading the race, as I supposed, to the Promised Land or out into a wilderness without Immortality and God; there to die?"

The fundamental note of our age is the cry for reality—for reality in religion. It rebukes all pretence and self-deception—all sham and hypocrisy. It insists that faith shall be tested by works; that character shall correspond with profession.

There is need that once again there should come into the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ a deep and vital yearning over the souls of men. Paul could not be accused of being over-emotional. Yet, he said to the Ephesian elders that he had served the Lord among them with many tears; and that in fact for three whole years, night and day, with tears he had sought to lead them to Christ. Of our Lord, it is said that when He beheld a certain city, He wept over it. Of Him, too, it was said that He "offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears." Much of our preaching and church service is too decorous. We are too icily regular for the Holy Spirit to work unfettered. We are too quiet. There is no passion—no deep yearning over men and women lost today, as truly lost as when the light of Christ first fell upon this world. Can we speak to men of the Cross of Christ without emotion swaying us; of His death for us and our salvation; or appeal to men to yield to Him without a light that never was on land or sea filling our hearts and shining out in face and word?

Evangelism has been brought into disrepute and sometimes into positive antagonism by the methods used in some campaigns. There has been too much of what was evidently man-made. Methods in great campaigns have been hasty and unwise; often failing to bring converts into connection with a church. Many churches feel that no permanent good came to them in return for all the disarranging of their regular work. Financial aspects of many evangelists have been entirely too prominent. There has been too much cheap clap-trap, and too

much obscurantism. While we should thank God that He has raised up great evangelists from age to age, and sincerely rejoice in the many brought to Christ through their meetings, we should never think of this sort of work in advancing the Kingdom of God as other than a special kind. The method God has most used and honored in the past and is blessing more and more in our day, and the kind of work upon which the Holy Spirit sets the seal of His approval, is that where every pastor will go to the help of a brother pastor, or himself conduct the services in his own church; and perhaps, best of all, where without any sort of special services there will be a steady stream of men, women and children coming into the church through day to day personal touch and soul winning.

We are to learn anew that scholarship is not an unfitting for an evangelistic ministry, but the best fitting. Learning that does not lead a minister to a deeper conviction of the need of all men, without regard to their social, intellectual or financial standing, and of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, has not been true learning. It has not been a fitting, but an unfitting. Whatever view the world may hold, for us there is one God—no more, one Lord—Jesus Christ; and that life comes through Him and through Him only.

We are to hold up to worthy scorn the very idea that an evangelistic service can be put on a lower basis than any other service. We are not to ordain men to evangelistic work whom we think incapable of doing regular work in the ministry. The necessity and urgency of New Testament Evangelism in all its richness and passion is to be set again on the highest plane, and at the forefront of all our plans. To this work our seminaries are to train men as the very flower and fruit of their lives; remembering the words of our Lord Jesus that He said of John, "He was a burning and shining light"; and the words of John about Jesus Himself, "He shall baptize you with fire." When the Holy Ghost with fire falls upon ministers, men will be born into the Kingdom of God.