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THE CORRELATION OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TO THE WORK OF THE LOCAL CHURCH.

REV. DEWITT D. FORWARD
Pastor First Baptist Church, Greeley, Colo.

To generate, to order, and to sustain correlation there must be a creative administrator. Given a good meeting-house, well appointed class rooms, trained teachers, and children,—even then there can be no vital correlation of the Sunday school to the work of the local church without administration. The genius of the Great Administrator is to bring the children of every race and clime to experience brotherhood and sonship in the family of the Eternal.

What do we know about the Bible? The second section of Sabatier's "Religions of Authority" must be met. Is it safe to inculcate Bibliolatry? Is it wise to waive questions of origin? Is it right to dodge difficulties? Rather give the facts of Price's "Ancestry of the English Bible." On the threshold of the public school the pupil is taught that life makes literature. All the nations have folk lore. Every race has religion. Annals and codes and poems and orations and letters and philosophy and theology find their way into the records of literary people. Professor Gardiner shows the variety, the unity, the ethical quality and the supremacy of the English Bible, the literature God's people have built upon life.

Research and science have brought the truth of old days into the light of new days. The historian, under fresh canons, with a passion for the acquisition and for the correlation of facts has put time, money and life into his investigations. Truth, seemingly, virile, sometimes revolutionary (but if historical always impartial), is within the reach of laymen in a work like Kent's "Historical Bible." And as a ward, the child has rights. Shall the teacher withhold? Furthermore, the American Standard Edition of the Scriptures is safe and racy as a commentary. So the Sunday school and the local church may be correlated to teach the truth about the ideal construction of our Sacred Book.

Theory about truth is minor. The practice of truth is major. The Scriptures, with an instinct for life, make sure paths to the place where a man lives—make individuals masterful. In practice, this function of revelation is fundamental, but character does not thrive in isolation; hence, the petition Thy Kingdom Come. But can we train the native American to heavenly citizenship? If self assertion, loyalty under clean law, common sense and the manly statement of his rights are in his marrow; it is because the Thing of Norway, the Folkmote of England, Magna Charta, Dutch liberty, seventy-six, the sixties; and eighteen ninety-eight are in his blood. Our boy says he is born

free. He stands for American law. To estrange him from the state is treason. Our government is abreast of the times. To realize the law of progress, which is the law of life, American Sunday schools and churches must Christianize nationalism, and gear up to the pace that wins for God. To this end the building for Sunday school and church uses should be rich in historic suggestion architecturally. Let the decorations of the room appointed perfectly tell the God story in our national life. Washington on his knees in Carpenter Hall, in righteous rage as he finds his highest officer in traitorous retreat, Franklin's call for prayer in the constitutional convention, the Shrine of freedom, Webster at Bunker Hill, Garfield in the New York draft riot, Lincoln's letter to Mrs. Bixby, Louisa M. Alcott in the army hospitals, the Gettysburg address, public office a public trust, Henry W. Grady before the New England Society, the words of the dying McKinley, Roosevelt's call to young men for ministry, Watterson's tribute to Nancy Hanks,—these treasures have religious value for our children. Provide in the meeting house a palladium for the people, encourage clean, strong men from private life and from public service to visit and teach the churches; and withal, insist that the public school and the State University are national institutions—as such they are to be kept worthy of the highest admiration. With a first class building, with a trained and ample force of teachers subject to an administrator, the Sunday school and local church, can be correlated to train Christian Americans.

VALUABLE PAMPHLETS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Graded Sunday School (free, send postage 4c), Rev. B. S. Winchester, Winnetka, Ill.

Something For Everybody (free, postage 4c), Rev. W. H. McPherson, St. Paul's Univ. Ch., Chicago.

Sunday-school Advance, Handbook of Method and Equipment, 88 pp. (by mail 14c), Rev. F. D. Elmer, Winsted, Conn.

A Selected List of Text Books Available in Graded Sunday Schools (free), The Religious Education Association, 72 Madison St., Chicago.

Correspondence Study Courses for Sunday-school Workers, sent by Board of S. S., M. E. Church, 57 Washington St., Chicago.

The Ripon Congregational Church School, send to Prof. Wm. J. Mutch, Ripon, Wis.

The Organization and Equipment of a Graded Sunday School (free), The University of Chicago Press.

The Bible Study Union Courses (free), Bible Study Pub. Co., 250 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.