

MR. W. J. BRYAN ADDRESSES SHERMAN PUPILS

The Sherman Bulletin reports portions of a speech by the great orator, William J. Bryan, to the students of Sherman Institute, which we reproduce:

To educate the hand, and to educate the mind is insufficient if we fail to develop morally. God has endowed us with body, mind and soul and these must be developed in harmony. There is a distinct tendency to translate education into dollars and cents. This is a false ideal. For every dollar that a man receives he must render its equivalent back to the world in Service.

The body should be developed and its strength and energy preserved. It is a deplorable fact that a great many squander their bodies by putting them to uses never intended by their Creator. Alcohol is one of the most pernicious agents for the destruction of the body.

It is not enough that our bodies should be subjected to the abuse of our mental and our moral weaknesses but men, from sordid motives, seek the destruction of the young generation through that anomaly of Christian civilization, the saloon and its kindred institutions. It was because of this fact more than any other that Mr. Bryan was won over to the cause of women suffrage. He said it was not fair that the mothers of the country, should have to rear their children from the cradle to the threshold of womanhood and manhood, nurtured in the ideals and hopes of what they desired them to become, only to have their lives blasted by an environment in which they, the mothers, had no voice in making.

In dwelling on the education of the mind Mr. Bryan cited the large proportion of our young people throughout the country who fail to finish school, from universities down to grammar schools. He gave the percentage of those entering college from high schools and those completing the regular courses in the colleges and universities. He said that it was a deplorable state of affairs and that if it was in his power every boy and girl in the country would have an opportunity for finishing his education. Our boys and girls should go as far as possible. He said that during his years in congress he never voted against an appropriation for Indian schools. That he knew the gentlemen who vote these appropriations do it wholeheartedly and without expectation of repayment in any other form than that we make the best of the opportunities the schools afford and become good citizens.

God, the Great Spirit, has ordained that we are to fit into the Divine plan, each according to the development of his talent; hence our moral education. A splendid mind and body are without avail if we neglect the soul. Every life-failure may be attributed

to a lack of moral force. Everyone should have a religion. Religion is an expression of moral growth. Tolstoy's definition of religion, that it indicates man's relation to God, is a splendid one. In training the mind and body we do so for the uses of Man. In moral training we subordinate both of the other branches of education for Man's uses in the plans of the Great Designer.

GO TO WAR?

Our schools of all kinds in the country are going to continue in session notwithstanding the war, and educated men of high type are going to be greatly needed in the great constructive period sure immediately to follow. Any young man in school should be very sure before abandoning his educational program that the army or navy needs him and will be short one soldier or seaman if he does not go to the front. There is a very long period for service after the war in our critical times of peace for the youth of today and they can be highly useful only if they have the preparation that can be made nowhere else than in the schools.

My advice to the Chilocco boys, and it would be the same if given to any other young fellows, who under the excitement of the hour burn to go to the front either through love of country, love of excitement, or love of freedom from the arduous and exacting duties of school life, is first to weigh the matter carefully in the light of actual conditions. If you see that there will be as many fighters as the country needs without you do not give up your studies and rob yourself of the opportunity you have now and cannot have a few years later for making yourself a person able to give to society service of high order throughout a period equal to the duration of many wars. But if our country needs you now to win the fight it has entered solely to preserve the ideals of civilization and without thought of material advantage, then make the sacrifice involved and help kill the citizens of the nation with which we are at war.

Killing people and destroying property, even with the sanction of international law, is not a business in which you should be eager to engage. At the best it involves at least temporary domination of the savage, for no man can go gunning for his neighbor even with legal authority to do so without feeling that God is on the side of those who are most efficient as destroyers. The only justification for your going at all, and especially for leaving school to go, is that your country needs all men able to bear arms to help in this, the most righteous combat ever waged by a nation.—Indian School Journal, Chilocco, Oklahoma.

In the third grade Current Events is pursued each week with absorbing interest. It is the favorite lesson of the week with these pupils.