

## Child Welfare

The greatest wealth of the nation has been variously estimated. Some think of it as gold + the things gold can buy, the natural resources and man made wealth – houses, + buildings – R.R.s S. Ships, Roads + Bridges, Docks + harbors – mines and oil – but others say the great wealth of any nation is the character of its citizens. That immense natural resources, and any amt. of gold and mfg. wealth – is of small value unless it is secure – unless it is used for good purposes – unless it makes for peace + the comfort of the people – unless men respect the lives and the property of others. Great wealth in the hands of unprincipled unscrupulous, selfish, people may well be the greatest liability of a people as human history has often proved it to be. Come to think of it – it would seem that honest, sterling character is a greater actual wealth than gold.

There are others that have called our attention to still another form of wealth that is most important of all – being our children. They give value to our gold – and any other form of wealth. If some strange biological disease should overtake us so that no more children were born and our race would die within say 100 years – how rapidly our wealth would disappear! In a very few years our vast resources would mean nothing. Our R.R. – S.S. – mines – great industrial plants, would all be in ruins + utter idleness. A dwindling agriculture would drag along for some time but very rapidly our farms would return to wilderness – and nothing would have market value. Land would soon be free to any squatter who would or could eke a living off from it. I guess we do not commonly realize how much the children of men give value to anything that has value.

+ of course the character of children is as important as the character of adult citizens. If all our children were fools incompetents – or viscious [sic] + cruel + dishonest – they would be of precious little value to the world. They would not only ruin every home but they would destroy themselves and organized society would be impossible. They would revert to the jungle and savagery. Even as we are it is very difficult for us to preserve civilization. We know, some know, – that civilization is in danger. The fury of man may practically destroy it within the life time of some of us present here to day. We hope not we hope that human selfishness and greed may be curbed in time to prevent the holocaust – but many are doubtful. It will depend on what our youth of to day think and feel and do.

Much money is expended upon children + youth. In my generation I've seen a vast increase in schools – of all kinds – the youth continued in school for a longer period. A greater attention shown by the lengthening period of life. We build gyms. Athletic fields, Play grounds, parks try to protect them from exploitation of any kind. Crippled + Blind. We often think of advantages children have now a days.

But, let us see. We have loaded them down with debt. Almost as any unit of Govt. is funded with a huge debt that we never expect to see paid we expect the children to pay for the past war. We bequeath to them a world in turmoil – in every nation a narrow nationalism that sets people against people. We have builded a huge war machine that they will pay for. They will have as great difficulties as we ever did – their problems may be more expensive than ours have been. I often wonder if after all we are not forcing the next generation to do more for us than we ever did for them.

Now there is no service we can do for them more important or as important as to give them Xian training. The security and stability of society depends upon it. Our dilemma of to day is mostly due to those factors in the common life of the people that are pagan and antixian.

We must grow up + train up a generation of children that have a far keener sense of justice + righteousness of sympathy for each other. A generation that will share more generously with others – that is more self sacrificing. That will establish a world peace – that can + will be law abiding + temperate in all things. We have blundered. We have been too intent upon our personal success + we have had false standards of success. We have by our selfishness – + neglect of children – our failure to give them religious ideals – and the restraints + discipline of religion sent 1000's of our youth to crime, jails, penitentiaries + prisons. We have endowed them to poverty + drudgery + lowliness of life. Time

does not permit me to tell many of the things we might do for child welfare – to assure the next generation of humans a richer and more abundant life.

Do what we can to see that they are well born.

Give them academic education

Give them moral "

Make childhood happy.