

OFFICE OF
Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Raleigh,

Oct. 22nd. 1890.

Hon. Elias Kerr,

Old Sparta, N. C.

Dear Sir:—

I have your card of the 10th inst. and the N.Y. Journal of Commerce which you had the kindness to send me. I had before, however, seen the article upon "Expurgating School Books". It is the same old wail of general opposition to the public schools seeking to cover itself under some pretext. It is true that the church and state are separated in this country, and that sectarian religion cannot be taught in the public schools. It is not true that the books have been so expurgated as to exclude the highest morals, to wit; the morals taught by Christ himself. The highest morality of any people is the highest religion of that people. In a country whose people as a whole are guided by the truths of christianity, public sentiment will compel the teachers of the public schools to inculcate that morality which is based in Christ's teaching and example. The very ^{best} possible way to teach morality is by the example of the teacher and the actual friction of the school room and school life. Besides, we have in our school books, this critic to the contrary notwithstanding, precept upon precept, the very best illustration of practical morality. This kind of daily illustration of good morals by the example of teachers and by the practical lessons in the public schools throughout this nation, is building up substantial moral and christian character and preparing the people of the country for such definite tenents as the different denominations may desire to impress.

There are some things that are axiomatic, one of which I think is that education



Department of Public Health

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NO. 12345

Subject: _____

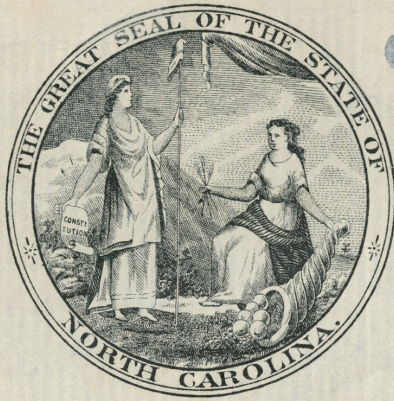
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I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., regarding the matter mentioned therein, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. It is my duty to state that the authorities have not yet rendered a decision upon the matter, and I am unable to advise you of the result thereof at this time. I am, however, sure that the authorities will act in the most equitable and just manner possible, and I am confident that you will be satisfied with their decision. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours,

 Director of Public Health

Very truly yours,



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is better than ignorance, even if it is only intellectual education, which I think it is impossible to give without at the same time imparting some moral training. I think it may also be considered settled that general education cannot be imparted by private or church enterprise, and that if the masses of the people in any country are to be educated, that result must be effected mainly by the State. It is high time in the blazing light of the close of the 19th century that good people everywhere recognize these truths and lend a helping hand to the State in this great work instead of opposing it.

There is but little trouble among Protestants on this subject, and the trouble among them is growing less. The real fight is between the Protestants and the Catholics. Of course we cannot tell what the final result will be, but I feel very confident that the public schools are to have no set-back on account of it, and that the books will be such as no christian need fear to put in the hands of his children. In North Carolina we have no trouble with either Catholics or Atheist and the Bible may be freely read in our schools. I further believe that christianity throughout this great country has not only power enough, but vitality enough to take care of itself.

Very Truly, Yours,

S. M. Feinger

Dict.



Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs

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As before the undersigned is directed to inform you that the same is being
in accordance with the provisions of the law... (The text is very faint and largely illegible due to the quality of the scan.)

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten signature]