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Children First

IN THE FACE of danger or disaster on a sinking ship we would strike down anyone who attempted to save himself at the expense of a child. Children come first not only on sinking ships but in our hearts, our homes, our schools, and our churches. They are first. The race can save itself—can lift itself higher—only as children are lifted up. In this unique period of depression with its extreme want on the one side and its extreme fortunes on the other, many schools are carried down to disaster—their doors closed—their funds cut off. Boards of education and other public officials are often hard pressed financially but they cannot afford to give up the idea of children first. Dare we cripple the very institution—the common school—to which we must look for the training in skill and in character to enable us to rise above present conditions? Let us set the child in our midst as our greatest wealth and our most challenging responsibility. Let us exalt him above industry, above business, above politics, above all the petty and selfish things that weaken and destroy a people. Let us know that the race moves forward thru its children and, by the grace of Almighty God, setting our faces toward the morning, dedicate ourselves anew to the welfare of childhood. Let us keep the children first.—J. E. M.

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A MAN of large affairs was recently heard to advise a friend, "Prefer workers who buy and read books—the best that has been written on human problems as well as on the technic of their jobs. A vigorous mental life usually means good physical health, happiness, and efficiency generally. Before you can build a great industry you must first build men and women who are competent in all the relationships of life and work. Any prosperity that ignores the worth of human life is false and fleeting. In organizing industry and in shaping the products to be made, human life is the central consideration. The world is big. Its problems are difficult. No one can be asleep mentally and do his part. Pin your faith on workers who are wide awake because they select and read the best they can find. If they are genuinely ambitious to improve themselves they will be ambitious to improve the work that commands their energies."

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THE TIME HAS COME when education must move forward to a new front. My proposal is that education shall assume responsibility [1] to set forth what the fundamental social-economic goals of America are, and the policies and practises most likely to achieve those goals; and [2] to use all the agencies of education, the schools, colleges, churches, and the like, in a concerted effort to create and maintain an enlightened public opinion in support of those goals, policies, and practises.—Fred J. Kelly.

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