

stitution any religious system, nay more, no union of Church and State must be even vaguely hinted at, yet we hear the cry, "It is a Godless Constitution." They tell us that Thomas Jefferson was an infidel. So be it, but he was a statesman too, and since he wrote the document, "the greatest ever written by uninspired pen," could we expect to find in it any recognition of a God? In a land where the Jew and the Gentile, the Papist and the Protestant, the Christian and the Atheist join hands in fellowship; there is no need of any such recognition, in any instrument designed to be only the operating power of our government. The Constitution is not the source of the principles upon which we are founded, but the offspring of those principles, not the motive power of our government, but the machinery through which that power is transmitted. Therefore, though there is in our Constitution no reference to a Supreme Being, yet we were born a Christian Nation. Take all these facts into consideration, mark you the sturdy Christianity of our fore fathers, know the hardships they endured for "conscience sake," know what they suffered for religious principle, and ask yourself whether we were born a Christian Nation; look into the convention that framed the Constitution, and behold there the men illustrious in the religious history of America, hear their daily prayers of thanksgiving, and listen to their petitions for guidance, and then ask yourself if our conception was wholly Godless.

Nay, but let us rejoice rather in that our forefathers bound no man's conscience by any religious belief expressed or implied in the Constitution, but that they knew that there was with the people that regard for morality and religion that would preserve those institutions destined to be the bulwarks of the nation. And these are what? What are the institutions that were then existing and are to-day active that make us a Christian Nation? The Church of Christ; witness her activity from

the earliest settlement, yea even discoveries in America, behold how for a century she was the main element in our civilization, witness her labors as a missionary, witness how she has kept pace with every other institution in the march of progress. See how the Cross is carried ever in the advance guard of the great army of civilization marching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and see how it is reared high above all other standards wherever the mighty caravan makes a momentary halt. Behold the missionary labor of the church of the United States to-day, and witness her herculean labors among the unconverted of the nation. Why does not the government provide religious instruction? Is it because we are fearful of establishing a State creed, fearful of the dread union of Church and State, thus to violate our fundamental principle? Would it not be better to wipe out that principle than to suffer the lack of moral education? The answer is not found here. 'Tis true, the sufficient reason is that the people can take care of their own morals and religion, and history has proven that they are willing and able to undertake the task without aid or even suggestion from the government. Where then is this education to be received, where is it to emanate? The public schools with the Bible, in part supply the want. The agencies of the Church supply what they are unable to satisfy. Much has been said about the Bible in our schools, but despite all opposition to its maintenance there, despite any so-called violation of principle that arises therefrom, it still remains as a testimony to the christianity of the American people. According to the fidelity with which the great task of educating the rising generation is carried on, so may we expect our nation to be in the future. Witness the mighty efforts of the Evangelical Churches to-day, mark the great wave of religious fervor sweeping throughout the land. See the endeavors of the church in the colleges of the land, and behold an army of Christian young men reared