

Excerpt from "A Basis of Morals for Schools." *Chicago Daily Tribune*. February 11, 1877.

## A BASIS OF MORALS FOR SCHOOLS

It will be conceded by thoughtful students of the public-school question that education must rest upon a moral as well as intellectual basis. The object of the State in providing for general education no doubt is to subserve certain civil ends. If it could not be demonstrated that universal intelligence was a necessary ally and support of political liberty, and the best guarantee of public order, social happiness, and individual thrift, Government would have no right to provide by taxation for the maintenance of schools open to all the children of the community. Except for these manifest secular and civil advantages, the whole matter of education would be left to individual arrangements and to the churches.

But the State cannot secure its own ends without educating the conscience as well

as the understanding of the children. The preparation which a child must receive for becoming an industrious, peaceable, law-abiding citizen, and a discriminating and patriotic voter, will necessarily include something beyond a knowledge of reading and writing, of arithmetic, grammar, and geography. If the man is to be industrious, the boy must be taught to despise laziness. If the man is to be truthful and regard an oath, the boy must be taught to hate lying and to abhor perjury. If the man is to be honest and loyal, the boy must learn the wickedness of theft and insubordination. If the man has practically no conscience, he will be a harmful member of society, and successful candidate for the poor-house and the prison...