

CHURCH TRAMP ARTICLES

(Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles that appeared in the Birmingham Eccentric during the years 1910-1912. The articles were written by Rev. Charles Wesley, of the Birmingham Eccentric, under the name of "Wesley." He has written these articles with a view to their being of interest to our readers to reproduce them in this issue.)

WESLEY FAMILY. DECEMBER 20, 1908.

There are God knows how many married couples in this country who call themselves Christians, and expect to go to heaven when they die, who, having accomplished "a modern American family"—a boy and a girl—suddenly lose all creative vitality, and with no alternative whatever, helplessly tell their friends and neighbors that they "don't know how any more." Let such people consider the case of the Wesley family—an account of which appeared on this page for Nov. 29, Susannah Wesley was the twenty-fourth child of her mother. If Susannah's father and mother had stopped—not with their second or their third child, but with their first child, the mother of John Wesley would never have been born. Again: If Susannah and her husband had stopped with their ninth child—a "great family" in our day—John Wesley had never existed—here would have been, in all probability, no Methodist church, and, humbly speaking, hundreds of thousands of people would never have been saved by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Further, Charles Wesley was the eighteenth child of the same mother—a premature birth at that—yet if the family had been restricted to 17, instead of continuing naturally at 19, as it did, 4,000 Christian hymns would never have been written, and at least two musical prodigies would never have delighted the world with their productions. Think of this, ye wandering minstrel Christians, with your curtailed Christian "family" of none, or one, or two.

he bible out of the schools without brian people supporting this such movement was in progress." Mrs. W. O. Greenwood thinks that the vanguard department of the denominational W. C. T. U. is especially fitted for "this great reform. 'Have we not come to the kingdom of such a time and work as this?' he asks.

national, Chicago): "We are face to face with an alarming fact, and that, the increase of crime among our boys and girls." "Great Britain has a decreasing ratio of crime among boys and girls, and expert opinion lays it to the fact that every child is to be found in school, and every child in school is taught the bible, with the result that there is a reverse in the case of the British schoolboy or school-girl that is not seen among those of our public schools."

"The moral welfare of our children is the question at issue, and whatsoever makes for righteousness in the child's life ought to be incorporated in the public system of education. The physical is being excellently cared for; the mental is a matter of concern that promises the perfecting of a system the equal of the world over; why, then, in all conscience, should we excuse ourselves in the matter of moral education, especially when the excuse are of character the poverty of which is so marked."

"The eternal truths of the bible implanted in the minds of our children will go far towards the amelioration of the sorrow incident to youthful criminality, and while her child there may be no need, because of the home surroundings of the church's influence, yet for the sake of the child that otherwise would receive no instruction this appeal is made for the bible to again take its place as a text-book of morals in our public schools."

In "Moral Training in the Public Schools," the California Reports, by C. E. Rush, T. P. Stevenson, E. D. Starbuck, F. Cramer and G. K. Myers, much information is given which all interested in this subject will do well to read. The greatest power for righteousness in the school is the teacher." Prof. Starbuck puts it in his essay, thus: "The ordinary

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