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## SPECIAL RATES ON 6 MONTH CONTRACTS

## THE CONSTITUTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The San Francisco Argonaut prints the following article relative to the constitution in the public schools, which cannot fail to be of interest to our readers:

Wide difference of sentiment exists throughout the United States on the subject of the Bible in the public schools, and even Protestant clergymen are divided upon it, although the larger number advocate it, as they contend against the "Godless" schools. Roman Catholics oppose the Bible in the schools, because it is the Protestant Bible and not the Catholic Bible which is contemplated. But the great mass of the people—Jews and Gentiles, deists, atheists, non-believers, agnostics, and others—are of the opinion that it is not the province of the public schools to teach religion, and that, therefore, the Bible should not have a place among the text-books. This is in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the federal constitution, which declares against "an establishment of religion," and forbids "prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Those who cry out that "God is not in the constitution," and advocate an amendment in the great charter expressly recognizing deity, in similar spirit demand the Bible in the public schools, which would in effect lead to the teaching of religion more or less of denominational or sectarian form. The general and secular sentiment is that the teaching of religion in schools should be committed to the Sabbath schools and the private schools especially intended for the purpose, in which the children are taught in conformity to the religious belief and desire of their parents.

There is a plane upon which all can stand and be in harmony, in connection with instruction in the public schools, free from sectarian influence and with perfect equality, in keeping with the duties of citizenship and without complaint of taxation to support a public institution with rules against their conscience on the part of any. Make the constitution of the United States one of the class-books for the public schools, and with it might well be taught sound history of the republic. John Van Buren many years ago humorously and wisely remarked that "common sense was not so common as was commonly supposed." The remark will serve in relation to the knowledge of the average citizen in respect to the constitution and to American history. Silas Wright, an eminent statesman, after many years in public life, a senator from New York and governor of that state, once said: "No one familiar with the affairs of our government can have failed to notice how large a proportion of our statesmen appear never to have read the constitution of the United States with a careful reference to its precise language and exact provisions," and he continued, "it has long been a favorite wish of mine that, in our public schools, the constitution should be a class-book, that it may be

surely and thoroughly understood by those who are to be the voters and rulers of the state." This ignorance of the constitution, as of American history also, on the part of the people, is more common than is generally supposed. A conspicuous instance of this general ignorance was shown in our own state in the convention of 1878, which framed the new constitution. Of the one hundred and fifty-two delegates who composed that convention, it is within the bounds of truth to say that not one-fourth had definite or practical knowledge of the federal constitution, and, in fact, one-half of them had never, apparently, read it—a few of them could not. Yet the votes of these were equal to the votes of the very small number of those who had read, studied, and understood the constitution. Moreover, these delegates, densely ignorant of the constitution, had been chosen to re-frame the constitution of California, to make and declare the organic law of the state.

It is now the demand of citizens generally that no alien shall be admitted to citizenship unless he shall have read and fairly understands the general tenor of the federal constitution. This should be the invariable rule, but it is with indifferent grace that it can be exacted of aliens while so many adult native and naturalized citizens, if subjected to the same rule, would forfeit the voting franchise. Make the constitution a class-book of the public schools, and every pupil attending them would be instructed in this first requirement of intelligent citizenship. It should be made obligatory by law—the duty of school boards and of teachers to teach the constitution from the text of the instrument, and to impress it upon their charges in the schools.

## Men Wanted.

The great want of the age is men; men who are not for sale; men who are honest, sound from centre to circumference, true to the heart's core; men who will condemn wrong in friend or foe, in themselves as well as others; men whose consciences are as steady as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right if the heavens totter and the earth reels; men who can tell the truth and look the devil right in the eye; men who neither flag nor flinch; men who have courage write out shouting, men in whom the currents of everlasting life run still, deep and strong; men who do not cry nor cause their voices to be heard on the streets, but who will not fail nor be discouraged till judgement be set in the earth; men who know their message and tell it; men who know their place and fill them; men who will not lie; men who are not to lazy to work nor too proud to be poor; men that are willing to eat what they have earned, and wear what they have paid for.—Exchange.

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Protestantism has no principles or consistency. It was the creation of a drunken, thieving and lustful mob, and consequently must always act as the mob dictates.—Omaha Roman Catholic Organ.