

nor measure and weigh them to ascertain what he could get out of them. He studied their wants and endeavored to meet them. It was a sad sight to him to witness the ignorance and helplessness of great crowds. He was hurt to think that they were in the condition of sheep without a shepherd. Their teachers had filled their minds with mere rubbish of thought, until there was little vitality in Israel. The people were going about hither and thither, like ships on the sea when they have lost their pole-star. Many had come to doubt everything that was written in the Old Scriptures; others were praying to God to send them a leader capable of directing them aright. Every right-minded person felt that the nation was daily losing ground in its religion, as well as in its place in the world. The Saviour lifted up his eyes and saw the state of affairs. Never had the times been riper for a great work than then. Plato, in his day, declared that unless God sent the world a leader, his hopes were gone; and now, several hundred years afterwards, that leader had come and proposed to begin the glorious work of leading men aright. On this one service he centred all his powers. It was enough for him to lift all men up into a higher life. But to do this successfully he must have helpers. It was necessary for him to go to the right hand of the Father to sit on the throne. He needed witnesses on earth to declare the facts of his salvation to the world. He must have ambassadors to manage the King's affairs in his absence. How few there were to whom he could commit such a care! Even among his twelve apostles one was a traitor, another a skeptic, and a third a denier of him with oaths. Indeed, every one of them was charged with unbelief and hardness of heart. All this while the world was starving for the bread of life; it was dying of the wounds made by sin—perishing without a healer. Is it to be wondered at that Jesus was moved with compassion when he looked on such a scene? We should be moved by a similar compassion, even now, as we look out upon our bewildered and perishing race, and seek earnestly to send out labourers into the great harvest-fields of humanity.

THE last National Council appointed a Committee on Sunday-school Work. The Committee has done good work already in helping to secure uniformity of statistics throughout the denomination. The states come into line rather slowly in this matter, not realizing the importance of getting at the same facts in all the states. The Committee has just issued a circular in which they again press the matter of uniformity of statistics, and, besides, commend the Home Department, and proffer suggestions as to the work that should be done in each state. Accompanying this circular is a little pamphlet containing "Suggestions for improving our Sunday-schools," which ought to have a wider circulation than was intended by the Committee. It is issued by the Society at the nominal rate of one dollar per hundred.

Opening and Closing Services.

I. Silence.

II. Responsive Sentences.

Supt. The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation:

School. He is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Supt. Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

School. And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee.

Supt. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

School. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

III. Singing.

IV. Prayer.

V. Scripture Lesson.

LESSON SERVICE.

I. Class Study of the Lesson.

II. Singing Lesson Hymn.

III. Recitation of Title, Golden Text, Outline, and Doctrinal Suggestion, by the school in concert.

IV. Review and Application of the Lesson, by Pastor or Superintendent.

V. The Supplemental Lesson.

VI. Announcements (especially of the Church service, and week-evening prayer-meeting).

CLOSING SERVICE.

I. Singing.

II. Responsive Sentences.

Supt. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

School. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

Supt. Behold; he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

School. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

III. Dismission.

THE APOSTLES' CREED.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.