

The church of God would be recreant to her trust if she should be behind the spirit of the age, or fail to furnish the great desideratum of education, which the circumstances of the times now, more than ever, demand—a *religious tutelage*. In reference to this matter we have not been wholly inactive, nor can we say that more effective measures than any which have hitherto been put forth might not be adopted. As it is at present, the Sunday-school service constitutes the means upon which we are mainly dependent to affect even the children of the Church herself, and wholly dependent to affect those who are without its pale; and though the service is a noiseless one, it tells with effect wherever it reaches.—[Mason.]

BRITISH SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We lost no opportunity of visiting Sunday schools while in Great Britain.

We visited schools of various denominations, and of various sizes and circumstances, in London, Nottingham, Edinburgh, and Liverpool. It is not easy in a few words to convey to our readers the precise impressions derived from these visits. We may state, briefly, certain classes of impressions most definitely made upon our mind.

1. It was clearly apparent that Sunday schools in England, as well as in America, were grand and effective agencies of good; and it was most delightful to find in the land of Raikes and Wesleys many thousands of teachers conscientiously and zealously laboring, Sabbath after Sabbath, to carry out the glorious work which these great and good men began.

2. It was also apparent that, in respect to self-sacrificing labor, and especially in a persevering devotedness of heart and life to the work of Sunday school teaching, our American teach-

ers have many most important lessons to learn from the English.

3. English Sunday schools have many obstacles in their way, from which ours are happily free.

Under this head may be mentioned not only the greater prevalence of popular ignorance among the masses, but the distinctions and grades in society, owing to which chiefly, none but the youth of the poorer and middling classes are ever sent to the Sunday school. Besides, the Sunday school in England rarely secures its true and proper position, namely, that of an integral element and agency of the expansion and perpetuity of the Church itself. It is too much an extra; a very good thing just outside of the Church, but not thoroughly incorporated with it.

4. In several important respects our American Sunday schools have decided advantages over those of Great Britain, *e.g.*,—

1. We have generally much more pleasant and agreeably located Sunday school rooms.

2. Our Sunday schools are generally much better fitted up for the convenience and comfort of scholars and teachers.

I did not see but one Sunday school room in England where the seats were furnished with backs. Simple movable benches were the prevailing kind of seats.

3. Our American Sunday schools are generally much better supplied with books, and books of a more suitable character. Sunday school books here are much cheaper, and being published in great numbers for this specific object, there is a better supply, which may be much more easily obtained by the several schools.

In view of these and many other considerations, we would urge upon American Sunday school teachers and scholars high views of their privi-