

encouraged by many a loving precept and cheering example to preach the glad evangel:—"I love them that love Me, and they that seek Me early shall find Me." And the sooner the better. The Gospel of Christ involves no conditions that a lad of tender years cannot fulfil, nor does it impose any duties that he cannot perform. He can trust its promises, enjoy its blessings, and look joyfully forward to its eternal rewards. It has been very well said that "there are very few children in the primary departments of our Sabbath-schools that do not know more about Christ than the two families first gathered into the Christian Church in Europe, namely, the family of Lydia, and the family of the Philippian jailer, all of whom were baptized after hearing their first gospel sermon." The jailer was a hardened heathen at sunset, a baptized Christian at dawn—so few and simple are the beliefs, about persons and facts, not philosophies, that Paul counted necessary conditions to enter the school of Christ. Thank God for the simplicity of the Gospel. The story of the cross, though it embodies mysteries into which the angels desire to look—mysteries which baffle the profoundest thought of sanctified genius—yet in its clear and simple outline it is capable of being understood by the Samuels and Timothys of every age. If as Protestants we were as wise in our generation as the Church of Rome in looking after the children; if we sought to mould