

for the religious education of the poor, in the institution of Sunday Schools, which were first introduced by a philanthropic individual in England 52 years ago; and the beneficial effects of which have been such, as to render that period a memorable era in the history of religion.

The peculiar advantages of Sunday Schools, are almost too obvious to require a formal recital. In the first place, we are to remember that, the children of the poor being, from a very early age, engaged in laborious occupation, have, during the week, little or no time to devote to learning of any kind; and if they *can* spare a small portion for this object, it is generally spent in acquiring the elements of useful worldly knowledge: hence the Sabbath is the only day, on which sufficient time and opportunity are offered for conveying to them any adequate religious instruction.

It is further an advantage of Sunday School instruction, that it occupies, in the acquisition of the most important of all knowledge, hours, which would, in all probability, be otherwise spent in public or private profanation of the Lord's day: and it is well known that scarcely any thing so demoralizes the character of youth, (and indeed of every age) as the habitual disregard of the Sabbath. Hence too, another incidental, but great advantage of Sunday Schools suggests itself, namely, the opportunity which is there afforded, of encouraging children to a regular atten-

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