

## A STEP FORWARD.

Let us organize a new movement. Let us draw a line between the children and the adults who now constitute the Sunday-school. Let us remove the excuse which some young people use for giving up the Sunday-school, "It is for children. We are no longer children." With the wisdom of the world, let us be wise enough to recognize the natural instincts and tastes of human nature, and as in the secular schools a distinction is made between the child and the senior, let us separate them so that the latter may find lessons and services adapted to his more mature tastes and character. Let us have a "high-school," or a "collegiate department," above the Sunday-school, into which the pupils who have attained a certain age may come. This is not only desirable and necessary, but it is entirely practicable.

We do not, indeed, recommend an immediate and violent separation between the Sunday-school and this other and higher society or department. That may come in due time, but the time is not yet. Let the whole biblical department of the Church—now called "Sunday-school"—remain as it is, with its primary, intermediate, and senior sections. Let all meet and sing and pray and study together as now, but within the existing organization organize a new department, with a new name, having well-defined objects, a carefully-prepared plan of operations, and let it develop within the school until such time as the school and the new movement shall be mutually benefited by a separation—if such time should ever arrive.

Here is the outline of a wheel within a wheel. Let us look at it again.

## THE ASSEMBLY.

This new "society," "movement," "development," or whatsoever you please to call it, which for the benefit of our older pupils we organize within the Sunday-school, must have a name. Let us call it the "Assembly." That was the name given to a separate synagogue service in the early ages—a service of consultation and discussion following the usual public service. It was a meeting of men—young and old.

Let us call our new senior movement THE ASSEMBLY. Boys and young men who do not particularly pride themselves in being "Sunday-school scholars," in association perpetually with primary and intermediate pupils, will not object to membership in THE ASSEMBLY—made up of persons over fifteen years of age, enrolling, as it soon will, a large number of the best men and women of the community.

This plan will leave the Sunday-school proper to the juvenile work it has traditionally and really in hand. It will harmonize more perfectly with the system of gradation now recognized in all secular schools, and give advanced and mature pupils a standing in the school department of the Church. It will thus help the Sunday-school, and insure firmer hold upon the adult element now gradually dropping out of the institution.

The Assembly is designed to promote the higher biblical, doctrinal, and general culture of the adults and young people of the Church and community.

It should hold its regular sessions in connection with the Sunday-school, remaining occasionally after the dismissal of the school, or meeting at other convenient hours for special sessions.

It should employ the International Lessons and such additional exercises in the form of lectures, "services," drills, etc., as may be adopted by the officers.

These are some of the general provisions of our plan for organizing, holding, interesting, and instructing the youth and adults of our communities. It will not be in rivalry, in any sense, with the Sunday-school, but under the same direction. Its sessions will be held, at present, in the school-room, with the school. It would be possible to dismiss it into the main audience-room after the opening exercises and allow it to remain there as long as it chose to stay for special services.

Will superintendents and pastors examine this scheme, and see if there be any hint in it for them and their churches? It is simply tentative. Test it.

BEWARE of theatrical tendencies in Sunday-school "celebrations." Keep God's house pure, else God's truth will be blasphemed by a sneering, thoughtless world.