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Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1903

Novel Sunday School Methods.

THERE is now running in The Outlook an interesting account of the work of Rev. W. S. Rainsford, formerly of Toronto, in St. George's Church, New York City. This was one of the churches that was being emptied by the removal of well-to-do people "up-town." Mr. Rainsford describes his methods of filling the church up again with the people who come into that neighborhood. He makes a strong ally of the Sunday School. His description of the first Sunday School they opened in connection with a mission close at hand is certainly unique:

"I walked in, and one of the first things I saw was that the boys had ranged themselves like a wedge, and before I could say a word I was knocked flat on the floor—full length—and for a while

we had a pretty rough time, until we had cleaned out about twenty of the worst of them. We did the best we could with the boys that remained. When we got ready to go, my friend went out a little ahead of me, and when I got out, I found him astride the gutter, with two boys between his legs, defending himself from two more. I never called a policeman; though at first things of that kind happened. I remember one man in particular—a big, strong fellow. He came in and sat down in the Sunday School (by this time I had some of the very best teachers I could find working there, and I always put the best workers I had there), and began to talk in a way that a man should not talk to a lady. He was a little drunk. I saw the lady's face flush; I walked over, and told him to get out. He would not move. I said:

"We are here to help you people; we are paid nothing for it; now, you are enough of a man to respect a lady; why do you sit here and make it impossible for her to teach these boys?"

"He swore at me and would not get out."

"You don't want me to call a policeman, do you? Go out quietly."

"He jumped to his feet, and I saw I was in for a row. He was as big a man as I am. I did not call a policeman, but I hit him harder than I ever hit a man in my life, and knocked him down. Then I stood over him and said:

"Have you had enough?"

"He said, 'Yes.'"

"All right," I answered; "now get out." And he went.

"About three weeks after that, we got into a scrimmage outside the Sunday School room with some toughs, and, to my horror, I saw, elbowing his way through the crowd, this same burly fellow, and I began to feel that, between him and the others, I would be killed, when, to my astonishment, he walked up to the ringleader and said:

"The Doctor an' me can clean out this saloon; you get out."

Mr. Rainsford is a vigorous opponent of the pew-letting system. He believes in the free church. Neither is he strongly in favor of street-preaching. He has had with him workers from the McAuley Mission and also Dr. Wilson, of Canada. For six years they worked along Salvation Army lines. But his impression is the results were compara-

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