

enough for her baby to put your hand on its head, and that you should not mind stretching over four seats for the sake of reaching her baby. It was all the world to her.

Our next day is Christmas Day, and again the babies receive the invitation. I do not suppose it means very much to the baby, but I do suppose that that same thread we are talking about is growing stronger, and we take the precaution when we buy our Christmas gifts to get a little gift that can be sent to the absent baby through the mail. And the fact that if one baby is absent his gift is just as sure to find him, makes more than one thread in this cord. It ties that home very much more closely to the school, and that cord will not easily be broken.

Among such little ones there will be deaths. When our children come into the Sunday School room and see a flower lying across the foot of the cradle everyone knows that some little one has died, or, as we tell them, "Some little blossom that found the earth garden too hard has gone to grow and be beautiful in the heavenly garden."

I remember calling one day at a home where a little one had gone, and the first thing the mother said was, "Do you remember that Sunday I brought the baby to the Sunday School, and you held her up in your arms and said this is one of our cradle members, may God bless her?" I didn't remember, but the mother said, as she lay dying I thought of that, and I was glad. Do you see the wide entering wedge that has made? Do you see that mother would not easily be separated from the school?

This will naturally bring the children earlier into the Sunday School, which will require perhaps a new way of teaching. It certainly will require that we prepare for these little ones whose horizon is marked by the home and bounded by the home, and they know very little outside of that. We are sometimes told that the little child should be taught for two years in the life of Christ. Did you ever stop to think how little there is in the life of Christ to teach a little child? Have you ever thought of it? Now that may astonish you at first thought. How much is there that a teacher could tell a child under five years of age, of the life of Christ? She certainly would tell the birth; she certainly would tell of the Saviour's kindness to people, His healing diseases; of His teaching little children and bidding them welcome; she certainly would tell the Saviour's story of the Good Shepherd. What more would you tell? Tell of His death, but not enlarging upon it. But what are you going to tell babies that are just beginning to come? It is not two years in the life of Christ; it is not all the time in the life of Christ. We may teach them stories in the Bible; Old Testament stories. A story moves the child; he lives in the world of stories. And we have to prepare a very motherly kind of teaching for the little children that are bound to come out earlier because of the Cradle Roll, and the mother should be in the room as far as possible with the little ones.