

as patent medicine advertisements, and just about as useful. Our ears are deafened by the noise and clatter of machinery. The Sunday-school is somewhat like a factory overcrowded with wheels, pulleys, and belts, with an engine of two hundred horse-power, when one of fifty would do the work. There is too much disposition to put on the steam, load down the safety-valves, throw open the throttle, and then 'just let her run.' We want plain common sense to stand by the break.

*Second.*—A superintendent needs the executive ability of Louis Napoleon. It is really harder work to regulate well a large Sunday-school connected with a large and flourishing church, so that all interests shall be looked after, than to govern the United States. He must be quick to plan, rapid in execution; able at the same time to look before him, behind him, to right of him, to left of him; and very often it is required that while he is doing this he must at the same time teach the leading class in the school because the teacher is, for some reason, absent. To be a live superintendent, he must have a genius to manage.

*Third.*—Another element that enters into the composition of the *live superintendent is enthusiasm*,—a burning, absorbing zeal. He who does not feel in reference to this work, as St. Paul did in reference to the Gospel—"Woe is me if I preach not the crucified Christ"—has no business in the superintendent's desk, and not much in the teacher's seat, either. What a drag on the work of the Church are these men and women without hearts! Human machines, who wind themselves up every morning, and only go like an old-fashioned clock, by dead-weight, until they run down. I wish that somebody would invent a spiritual nitro-glycerine for use in prayer-meetings and Sunday-schools, so that by an occasional explosion, if nothing more, these mummies might be vivified. The superintendent must be a live man, with a warm, quickly throbbing heart, full of sympathy, easily moved, so that he can enter into the feelings of others, and be a true helper to every teacher who needs. But let us not fail to remember that this enthusiasm must be his servant, not his master. See that powerful loco-

motive on the track! A full head of steam is on, the glowing fires roar and snap beneath the boiler; but as yet there is no motion. Now the engineer steps upon the platform; his hand is on the rod by which he controls the valve. A motion of the wrist, and with a snort and a rush the huge machine is off. What power! Another touch, and on faster, faster; twenty, thirty, forty miles an hour! What a picture of force! Furious fire and smoke, rapid-whirling wheels, the very ground shaking beneath the rush of the mighty mass! What power shall suffice to arrest that motion? Put a hundred men upon the track; let them seize its whirling wheels, and it would cast them down in the twinkling of an eye, and hold on upon its unbended course. But in that machinery there is a spot where the slightest touch will make the mighty mass slacken its pace, creep slowly forward, stand still, slide back, obey the will of the man who grasps the handle. The common-sense enthusiast keeps control of all the valves of his nature; he remains master of the situation. Be careful, then, not to jump the track; if you do, things are apt to break, and you always lose time.

*Fourth.*—He must be a brave man, able to stand fire, and to give the word of *command*. It is easier to manage a school on the easy good-natured principle than it is to secure thorough organization. It is not needful to make a show of authority, but power must be lodged somewhere. A superintendent, then, that would have a well-governed, orderly school, must not hesitate to correct whatever irregularities may exist. It requires real moral courage, and that of a high order, to face the prejudices of a teacher, and often of the scholar too, in regard to changes in the arrangement of the classes which the superintendent feels ought to be made. But even beyond and above this the superintendent must possess that sort of courage that clothes the man or woman who has it with a mental *impenetrability*. He must be, if he expects to lead a happy life, impervious to the wagging of tongues. He must expect to be criticised harshly, judged, found fault with, his motives questioned, his plans interfered with, and often frustrated. He must not be sur-