

Bible classes need no longer be paralyzed, young Christians would no longer be asked for fruit when God only looks for blossoms, and our classes would no more be taught by those whose willingness is great, but whose capacity is of necessity small."

What happy results might not be expected to accrue to the entire working of the Sunday-school system if in every church the wisest, most established, and most "spiritually-minded" of the brotherhood, were to give themselves with full purpose of heart to the labours and pleasures of the teacher's office. In addition to the avoidance of the evils above enumerated, the presence and co-operation of these advanced Christians would inspire with confidence the hearts of more youthful workers; their standing in the Christian life would secure the reverence and attention of the scholars; their counsel in matters of difficulty—matters sometimes requiring the most prudent and skilful handling—would be invaluable.

And in what way could the older Christians in our churches hope to be more useful than by throwing a portion of their energies into a work which promises such vast results to the present and coming generations? What other field of labour can they enter upon with equal promise of reward? How can they more surely follow in the footsteps of their Lord, than by caring for those respecting whom He emphatically said to His selfish disciples: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven?"

It is easy, of course, to make excuses; and there are undoubtedly many who can plead substantial excuses for not engaging in this work. The mother whose hands are filled with family cares; the sick and the aged, whose infirmities unfit them for labour; those whose daily toil is excessively arduous and exhausting, may fairly claim exemption from the responsibility we are endeavoring to fix. But when we have subtracted all these parties from the membership of our churches, there yet remains a numerous and influential class who cannot, we venture to think, excuse themselves from service in the Sunday-school, except for some such reason as they could not assign to their Master and Lord—to Him who seems to say to them, as they look upon the throngs which crowd our school-rooms, "Feed my lambs."

Are there not a goodly number of pious matrons, who have reared their families, and have thus acquired vast stores of experience in the management of the young, who have not as yet begun the work for which they are peculiarly qualified? Are there not persons of both sexes, unincumbered with the cares of a family, and in every other way free-handed, who might aspire to the high honor of

helping to train the rising generation for God? Are there not members in all our churches, who, if they were to devote themselves to the labours of the Sunday-school, would be far more useful than they have ever been since they set out upon the Christian course: for the simple reason that they have never yet undertaken any active, constant, methodical service in behalf of the Redeemer's Kingdom and glory? Their duty is plain; their opportunity is a grand one; their responsibility is great.

THE YEAR BOOK.

This important and very necessary publication has now been before the Denomination some three months; and we exceedingly regret to notice an amount of indifference among the Churches in taking it off the Committee's hands, that is neither creditable to their interest in the progress of the Redeemer's Kingdom nor their appreciation of the work that has been done for them by the painstaking brethren appointed by the Convention to compile and publish the annual.

We believe we are not far from correct in stating that out of 1500 copies printed not more than 600 Year Books have been disposed of—and that in a denominational constituency of 27,000 Church members.

What have our pastors, deacons and leading members of Churches got to say for their want of interest, nay, their positive lethargy in pushing the sale of what is on all hands admitted to be the best and most complete Year Book yet published in the interests of the Baptist Churches and Institutions of Ontario and Quebec?

No one who is fully alive to the interests of our Denomination, can afford to be without the Baptist Year Book for 1879.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"THE WORK A BAPTIST S. S. CONVENTION SHOULD DO."—We call special attention to the paper on this subject in another part of this month's HELPER. We have deferred its publication to the present time in hope that its influence may be more beneficial, coming a month before—instead of a month after—our annual S. S. conventions in connection with the different Associational meetings.

TWO NEW EXCHANGES.—(1) *The Vermont Baptist*. We have received Nos. 1 and 2 of this new monthly, which is devoted to the interests of our denomination in the State named. We like it, and wish it abundant success. (2) *Our Church Home* is the local

organ of the Second Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo. The Pastor, W. W. Boyd, D.D. is Editor. The number before us is full of good things, calculated to be of spiritual benefit to its readers. *Our Church Home* has a welcome place on our exchange list.

THE BAPTIST REVIEW.—Just as we go to press No. 1 of this new quarterly has been sent us. We have not had time to read it; but from the Bill of Fare placed before us a rich treat is in store. The following are the contents: 1. *Our Knowledge of Infinites*, by Alvah Hovey, D. D.; 2. *Missionary Career of Jesus Christ*, by E. T. Winkler, D. D.; 3. *Augustus Tholock*, by H. S. Burrage; 4. *Religious Liberty under Roman, Gothic and Russian Law*, by G. W. Samson, D. D.; 5. *Swedenborg and his teachings*, by H. M. King, D. D.; 6. *Inspiration*, by G. W. Lasher, D. D.; 7. *John Wycliffe*, by C. E. Barrows; 8. *Progress of Biblical Scholarship* by J. O. B. Lowry; 9. *Dale's Theory of Baptism*, by H. Harvey, D. D.; 10. *Editorial*; 11. *Literary Notes*.

The Review is beautifully printed, contains 172 pages and is only \$2.50 a year, or in clubs of three or more \$2.00. It is published in Cincinnati, under the Editorship of Dr. J. R. Baumes. We shall be happy to forward any cash orders sent through us.

Communications.

ALEXANDER STREET SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The twelfth annual meeting of the teachers and officers of this school was held on Monday evening, April 7th, the Superintendent, Mr. C. A. Morse, presiding.

FINANCES.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. James Wright, referred to the introduction into the School in December last of the denominational scheme of Systematic Benevolence. The Treasurer acts as Superintendent of the scheme, and the teachers collect the money from their scholars. The amount received during the term of eighteen weeks under this system was \$69.50, which has been handed to the Secretary of the Convention, to be distributed as follows: Home Missions, \$34.70; Foreign Missions, \$22.43; Ministerial Education, \$12.37. The receipts represent an average of \$3.86 each Sunday, as against \$1.47 under the old system of plate collections. The money required for carrying on the School is received from the Church.

The plan of keeping the Library.

Mr. Thos. Bengough, Librarian, gave his first report. It described changes he had made in the manner of keeping trace of the books; and as the plan has proved very efficient, it may be well to give it here. Each scholar is provided with a box or compartment in the Library Post Office which stands near the entrance. Over this box the