

sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Parochial visitation was of a more impressive character than it often is now-a-days. It was something more than a perfunctory call and shaking of hands with the women of the household. Men would leave their business to be at home and meet the visitor, and the short service of praise, prayer, and reading from the word would frequently be concluded with questions from the shorter catechism.

On the other hand, there were fewer Sunday-Schools and Bible-classes, and other means of religious instruction for the rising generation. The only Sunday-School in Govan parish that I remember hearing of was a class of small boys and girls taught by two of my sisters in a small room of a private dwelling on Sunday mornings. Some eight or nine lads of my own age used to meet for an hour before the morning church service in the vestry—a very small apartment high up in the steeple of the church. Nobody took any notice of us; there was an entire absence of superintendency and the proceedings in that upper chamber were often—well, of a mixed description. But, all the same we did our best and, to a limited extent, acquired the habit of studying the Bible.

It goes without saying that tea-meetings, socials, church festivals and concerts, *et id genus omne*, had then no existence. Indeed, they would have been deemed indecorous to a degree. The Sabbath was rigidly observed. To be seen walking abroad save going to, or coming from church, would have met with a solemn rebuke and warning not to do it again.

The garden gate was sacredly locked on Sunday, as were all the public parks and gardens in the Kingdom. It is only a few years since the Princes Street gardens in Edinburgh were thrown open to the public on the Sabbath day. The startling "innovation" met with strenuous opposition for years, but when it did come, in the spring of 1879, it was hailed as a public boon. and it was chronicled in the newspapers that some 28,000 persons availed themselves of the privilege on the first day of opening! To be seen reading a secular book or newspaper on Sunday would be regarded as a flagrant breach of the fourth commandment.