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Ritualism in Sunday-School.

WE observe that our esteemed *confrère*, the Halifax Wesleyan, is somewhat apprehensive that the use of our brief opening and closing exercise, including a repetition of the Creed and the Ten Commandments, may cultivate a ritualistic tendency in the minds of the scholars.

If we thought there was any danger of this we would omit these exercises from the *Scholar's Quarterly*, in which they are now given. We may here remark that the idea is not original with us, but is borrowed from that prince of Sunday-school organizers, Dr. Vincent. We were so impressed with the advantage resulting from the use of these exercises at Chautauqua, that we introduced them into our own Sunday-school publications.

A prevailing fault of Sunday-schools and congregations, both in the United

States and Canada, is the lack of reverence during religious worship. This lack is apt to be most marked in out-of-door services as at Chautauqua. Yet all who have been there must have been struck by the beautiful and orderly conduct of the services, where these responsive exercises are used. Giving people something to do, some part to take in the service, engages their attention and cultivates reverence of manner.

What is this service whose ritualistic tendency is feared? It consists of a part of a psalm, repeated in responsive verses by the Superintendent and school; singing lesson hymns; repeating the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed, that beautiful symbol in which all the Churches of Christendom agree; and, in conclusion, the singing of the beautiful doxology, "Glory be to the Father," etc., and a benediction. We think that the testimony of Superintendents is, that this simple and beautiful lesson service conduces to the reverent and seemly conduct of the school, and fosters a spirit of reverence in the young people. Where there is any objection to it, however, schools may omit any part of this service, and substitute some other method of opening and closing in its stead.

THE Bible-class in the Sunday-school of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, has a membership of 500. It is conducted by Mr. E. H. Bartlett, son of Mrs. Bartlett, who founded it with three members. One thousand members of this class had joined Mr. Spurgeon's church up to 1873. The Sunday-school of the Metropolitan Tabernacle lately held its annual meeting for the distribution of the magazines which had been gratuitously bound for those scholars who had taken them through the agency of the periodical department of the school. 259 volumes were thus distributed.