

teaching: unless you take those lessons of Christ and His Resurrection, and work them into your spiritual being, it is not teaching of the highest kind. May God help you to digest thoroughly, and make your own, these precious lessons from His holy Word. Because you go on week after week teaching that class, you are continually adding to your stock of religious knowledge of the Word of God, and not only so, but to your stock of spiritual strength and power and blessedness, and you are engaged through all the weeks of your lives in taking in and making part of yourself in order to give out to the school. You are to be congratulated for another reason: that inasmuch as you are Sunday-school workers, your work in the school gives to you a certain religious and spiritual character to maintain before the world,—and that is a blessing to you, and you ought to thank God for it. The true father will hesitate to do many a thing which otherwise he might do were it not for the thought of his boys; and the true Sunday-school worker will hesitate about the doing of many a thing which otherwise he or she might do were it not for the thought of that class before which they have to appear next Sunday, and who are looking to them as guides in moral and spiritual things. I tell you, friends, it is a good thing for you and me to have some character to maintain. I do not say it is the highest source of moral character and inspiration, but it is just one of those stepping-stones that helps us in climbing up, and it helps us a great deal. One of David Livingstone's ancestors said: "Remember, David, that there never was a Livingstone that was dishonest; keep up that tradition in the family." You remember in "Tom Brown of Rugby," how he thought he had a character to maintain in relation to Dr. Arnold. When he got into a scrape one of the boys said to him: "It's easy enough to get out of that scrape; you needn't tell the Doctor about it;" and I shall never forget the answer that Tom Brown is represented as having made, "Oh, a fellow can't lie to the Doctor." He had a character to maintain to Doctor Arnold; he might lie to somebody else under the circumstances, but he could not lie to the doctor. It is a blessed thing for you and me to be put under such relations that we have a character to maintain before the world, before the Church, before our Sunday-school class, before our brethren in Jesus Christ. You Sunday-school workers have a character to maintain, and that blesses you more than you know. I know it for a fact in connection with Sunday-school workers under my own observations, who in the early days of their experience in the school and in spiritual life have come some day, before they knew it, right straight up against this question, and the other question of some association which they were keeping—the question of some amusement in which they had been indulging—a question respecting some habit to which they had been giving themselves,—Shall I give it up, or shall I go on with it?—and this very fact of being a worker in the school, of having a class of boys and girls there that were looking to them, has influenced them,