

time or another, at the Bible-school. And there is this advantage to the hearer :—if he has been induced— inveigled if you will—into asking a question, or making a remark upon the passage, his heart and mind will be full of it, as he goes home. He will not discuss crops or weather, trade or politics, as he returns ; but will have more to say to his neighbour on the “ lesson,” as they pursue their way home.

Where it has been tried, it is always in the afternoon ; and supplementary to, not instead of, the morning sermon. There is one thing certain—our people *do* need more instruction in the Scriptures. And we are willing to believe they are ready to receive it. And as, in very many instances, it seems impossible to have a full attendance of members except on the Lord’s Day, *that* is the time this “ extension of the S. School” must take place. Mr. Mimpriss, an excellent authority on such points, says the additions to the Churches in England and Scotland, from the Sabbath-school, do not exceed one per cent per annum. This must not be ! The Church must wake up ! The children must be brought into the Church ; and the teachings and arrangements of the Church must be such that they shall continue to be as interested, and as *much benefited*, as when S. S. Scholars.

W. W. S.

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## THE UNIFORM LESSON.

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BY REV. JOHN HALL, D. D., OF NEW YORK

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There must be some good in the “ uniform.” In the great schools and colleges they put the boys and young men into it ; and so, if they get into boyish scrapes in the “ town,” it is easy to know them by the “ gown.” In the law courts they put the lawyers into horse-hair wigs, and band and gowns ; thus there is lent to law proceedings some sense of dignity and importance, which it is hard to maintain in average humanity where the presiding judge is in a linen “ duster,” and dusty at that, and the assisting learned brethren stretch their legs over the dock-railing, perhaps originally to avoid the tobacco nuisance on the floor. The Bar Association of New York think of getting gowns and bands. We wish them success in the effort. The gallant tars have a uniform. So had the “ boys in blue” for good and sufficient reasons ; and something now might be said about ministers having it too, and yet not being “ sacerdotal.” We have not too much “ reverence,” any of us ; and no help to it is despicable.

But the *Uniform Lesson*, that is another matter, and one of which much must be thought and said for a few months to come.

The writer is interested in a Young Men’s Society, which manages the Sunday-school work of the congregation, and meets monthly. Lately it was thought well to make the “ Uniform Lesson” the topic, and the female teachers being equally interested with the male, they were respectfully invited to be present, with a result so satisfactory, that it will be difficult to resume the monkish method of meeting again.

Free discussion was invited, and it was interesting to see how the idea struck various good minds. A note was made at the time of the difficulties, and of the replies to them, of which the friends were too candid to deny the force.

“ Why,” said one independent-minded man, “ those commentaries will be so full and complete, there will be nothing for teachers to do in the way of study.