

tioning of Christian men and women, is about sixteen years and three months for boys, and a little earlier for girls. After that age, conversions become less frequent, until, in the maturer years and later years of human life, they almost cease. Regularly and inevitably as adolescence comes, the Holy Spirit of God stirs the hearts of boys and girls. God help us to preach to the right people, at the right time, and in the right way.—Guardian.

### The International Uniform Lessons.

WHEN theorists talk about Sunday School studies it is well to give heed to the words of a master in practice as well as in theory. No one has had higher standards for Sunday School teaching, and no one has had such an intimate knowledge of actual results for years as Bishop John H. Vincent. He writes of the International Lesson System with a remarkable exhibit of its splendid results which all Sunday School workers may profitably read; not to slacken efforts to improve the lessons, but to encourage to still better things. This is what he has recently said in favor of the International Uniform Lessons:

This system of Sunday School lessons has already wrought wonders. It has advertised the Bible as the one textbook of the Christian Church, and immensely increased its use throughout the civilized world. It has exalted the Bible as the true standard of doctrine; stimulated the advanced scholars of the Church and of the universities to apply to the Bible their most scientific and thorough methods of study; inspired the pulpit by educating the whole congregation in the great truths of the word; enabled every pupil through twenty-one years to pass three times over the field of revelation, each time from a different point of view, by methods and thorough lesson helps adapted to his maturing powers. The system has placed the Sunday School as no other system could possibly do at the service of the pastor, and made it possible for him in the pulpit to supplement the work of the school; made normal and teachers' class work an easy possibility; furnished him with incentives to this service; provided a wealth of material for Sunday School teachers of every class; made graduation in the

school and graded lessons a necessity, and that in conformity with the most rational pedagogic methods; utilized religious and secular weekly papers in the exposition and illustration of scriptural truth; encouraged home co-operation in Bible study; given parents and older children a motive and an opportunity to help the younger; provided in abundance and variety brilliant pictorial illustrations of Bible history and ethical teaching; facilitated the superintendent's work in the devotional service and in the review; provided as necessary to its completeness comprehensive and systematic supplementary lessons in all branches of Bible study; increased the spirit of unity in the Church among all denominations; given people who travel or families that move an uninterrupted course of study wherever they happen to be; made union Sunday School and other religious conventions doubly interesting, and reduced to a minimum the expenses of Sunday School helps.

Of course, this almost ideal system of church study depends for its success upon the zeal and wisdom of the men and women who employ it. It is always easy to find fault with the "way" in which a given work is done, and to point out and exaggerate "defects," which, however, have nothing to do with the "system" itself, but wholly with the use made of it. But such criticisms are wholesome, and do great good to those who are eager to do the best work possible.

This united effort of the Church will continue. Its defects will gradually be corrected. Its workers will more and more be aided as from the beginning of it by the splendid and advanced scholarship which is more and more giving itself to the cause; and the "hints," "plans," "changes," proposed by the consecrated genius and scholarship of our age will only augment the power of this providential movement.

### Prayer with Motions.

"Dear Father, touch these eyes of mine,  
That they may look to Thee;  
And make my ears to hear Thy voice,  
Whene'er it speaks to me;  
And make my lips to speak the truth,  
My feet to walk the ways,  
My hands to work Thy holy will,  
My life to show Thy praise."