

give a paper on some one of the following:—David, Jonathan, Elisha, Samson, Gideon, and Eli. This programme was given yesterday, taking part of the time of our quarterly review. Some of the boys read papers, while two of them gave eight-minute addresses, which were simply excellent. I found this exercise not only greatly interested the school, but got the boys down to study. I purpose following this plan up later with other girls and boys.

That is the right thing to do. And we advise our friends to accept every offer the General Secretary makes, even if the cost is practically nothing. We shall issue another Leaflet before long, and want every School to get it. Watch these pages.

### The Pastor and the Sunday School

BY REV. E. J. ELLIOTT, WATERLOO, ONT.

Should the pastor attend the Sunday School? is a question not seldom asked. There is but one answer, and that is in the affirmative. Again, should he teach a class? Not necessarily; much better if he can, and does; but he should always be there.

It is impossible for a pastor to get and keep in touch with the throbbing, growing life of his congregation, unless he is regularly in the Sunday School. He will know little of the joy and satisfaction of—

"Work, through the morning hours;

Work, while the dew is sparkling;

Work, 'mid the springing flowers;"

unless he is in the garden of the church, definitely and interestedly. Time spent with the morning hours of childhood and the budding period of life cannot be spent in vain. Nor is it insignificant work, or beneath the dignity and culture of any pastor—no matter who or what he is.

If his charge be a metropolitan pulpit, with a metropolitan Sunday School, his opportunity is only the greater, as is his responsibility also. The growing life of his great church demands that he adjust himself to it—the school. If he is the pastor of a smaller constituency, he will have the splendid privilege of winning and folding the lambs of his flock. The sympathy of all is with the country pastor who has three or more churches, several miles apart. He cannot do as he would like; but is nevertheless under obligation to make some shift, by which he may keep in touch with the young blood of his charge.

The Methodist pastor who has gathered a large percentage of his Sunday School into the church during his term has accomplished a great and lasting work. He may not add just at the time to the financial showing of the church, but in a few short years a hundredfold strength and power will be added to every department of the church's work. Feeding the lambs—nourishing, training them,—is without any exception, the most satisfying and profitable work of the pastorate; and great has been the gain as the result of it. The Lord God has been glorified in the lives of a multitude of noble men and women who were definitely won for Him in their childhood.

The greatest asset of the church in Canada to-day is the youth, both the native born and the foreign boys and girls who live in the East and in the West of this vast and rapidly developing country.

Pastors, keep your eye and hand well on this section—a large one—of the flock, and you shall have the constant joy of soul-winning, as well as the satisfaction of being partners in a mighty evangelism.

"He that winneth souls is wise."

### The Supreme Mission of the Sunday School

BY REV. A. F. BRACE, B.D., RICHMOND HILL.

"When the morning stars sang together" it was the accompaniment to the song of the Child who was to make this world what it ought to be by bringing "Peace and Good-will to men."

Lamentable ignorance of the force in our hands has led to disastrous results, and when those results have astounded and saddened us, we have at length resignedly and piously looked up and wondered: Why this dispensation of Divine Providence? Rather should there have been humiliating self-condemnation at the recognition of criminal human impotence. Especially should this be the attitude when we remember how willing and how near is Divine co-operation, and how apparent is our mission and its importance as we "touch" our younger people every day.

While we have been looking every where in earth and sky for profitable investments, have got forth creditable schemes to renovate society and to evangelize the world, we have largely overlooked the fact that the key of the whole lay in our hands in the family and in the Sabbath School. The greatest investment for the here and the hereat, the quickest method of transforming society, and the surest way to evangelize the world is to immediately recognize the early, remarkable possibilities which are open to us in the raw material placed by God in our hands.

The supreme mission of the steel plant, with all its marvellous processes employing the most skilled minds in the world, is the producing of the finest finished products possible from the raw material.

The supreme mission of Edison, the great electrical wizard, and others, is to so open up the possibilities and to direct that subtle energy as to produce the most practical results for the benefit of man.

We in the Sabbath School are dealing with a life, a year more than a life, a spark of the eternal energy of the Divine, and we may well consider carefully the charge assigned to us. It may well tax the highest talents of the most skilled, magnetic, intellectual and spiritual giants, for according to faithfulness and sanctified skill in this work will be the wealth, joy, and betterment of this world, and the glory of the next.

This life comes to us overlaid with the debris of centuries of human frailty, and the admitted tendency to iniquitous habits. But our pulses quicken as we recognize "the bloom" indicating that not far below, the possibilities of Divine treasure are there. This should send us feverishly onward in the supreme quest of early development.

Home and the school are a joint stock company of unlimited capital—too often, unfortunately, one or the other has been a sleeping partner—to bring to self-recognition the golden treasure of Christ-likeness. The supreme mission of this company, the single purpose of their God-given charter, is the unravelling to the inner eyes of this young life the Divine relationship. As they recognize this—Instantly—the Holy Spirit, that eternal, subtle, personal power operates, and His free play on that life will produce in the willing heart results most wonderful and far-reaching.

"Call this the point of new birth, if you will, it is certainly most be the Divine seal of such, no matter at what period in that life it occurs. Though the human embryo is living long prior, it is not said to

be born till its eyes receive contact from the light of this birth. The youngest child is most certainly a member of "the Kingdom of Heaven," and the new birth may be said to have undoubtedly taken place the moment the inner sight either of itself or of our direction under Divine guidance, beholds "the Light of the World" by seeing the loving Divine fatherly relationship.

Thus our supreme mission in all departments of our Sabbath School work must be to bring those in our care to this awakening, and all our ideals must cluster round this object.

Before leaving this topic we shall briefly summarize our ideals, our procedure in their attainment, the results we achieve, and the influence of such a conception on the future.

Our ideals must lead us to be so keenly alive to our privileges that we shall be ever alert to use every means to discover the untold possibilities of the child nature in our hands and to be ourselves in such harmonious relationship with the Divine Spirit as to know His purpose and to be willing to follow with sanctified judgment the Divine plan in direct line the moral and spiritual potentialities of those under our care. Thus shall we be able to do for our children what Christ did for the disciples—that to such self-surrender and self-discovery as will bring them to seek the Divine plan and guidance for its largest results.

To do this our procedure may be simple, but it must focalize every power and every purpose of a consecrated mind to accomplish such world-moving impulse. To this end the plan will be to marshal our every force and our multiple and complex organization into a judiciously effective operation, such as will bring the most productive results from the material—the child-life and energy—with which we have been entrusted by the Great Master. We shall not consider any effort too taxing, any sacrifice too great, in order that our youth may be led into harmony with the Divine, in Christian service with Him and for Him.

What a power in human hands! What Christ-like honor! Permitted to be Divine lateral forces, whilst He with perpendicular power gives His nature "from above," we are able to give character by our "touch." How important that this "touch" shall be always Divine.

But are we actualizing the vision we have thus caught of our supreme mission? Is our work "Advance" or is it "Mark Time"? Is manhood becoming more divine? Is society being transformed? Is the world being more than ever operative? These are, and will be, only as we are each for himself actualizing our vision of the supreme mission of the Sabbath School: as we are willing to "take up the cross" and submit "daily" to vicarious sacrifice.

Then with the earlier awakenings of the truest manhood and womanhood because of the removal of those things which have so long seared and scarred the Godlike, the future shall see: An improved fatherhood and motherhood, an increasingly enriched ancestry, moral, social and political problems solved, a great world-wide movement of the truest missionary character, an emigration and an immigration from the home and to the Sabbath School, and that school so operating that not a member or a talent shall be without some form of activity.

Then will be fulfilled our great motto: "All the Church in the Sabbath School, and all the Sabbath School in the Church." Then the terms Sabbath School and Church will be synonymous.

"Happiness is not the end of life, Character is."