

to support her with his own labour.

Now, dear children, God's word was the cause of all this. This it was which changed the child's heart, and taught him to be an honest boy, full of trust in God, and made him a tender, dutiful son. This it was which, by the Spirit of God, instructed and directed him. This it is which speaks to him of Christ, the sinner's Friend, and makes him look to be with Jesus in heaven, so that he can say, with David, "Thy word giveth wisdom and understanding to the simple." Remember, dear children, that if you pray for God's Spirit to bless the reading, hearing, and learning of it to your hearts, it can do all this for *you* too.—*C. M. P. M.*

THE POWER OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS,

It is to bring the youthful intellect and the youthful heart of our whole country under the developing influences of religious truth. In aiming at this particular class of our population, it is in strict keeping with the spirit of our age: for there is no peculiarity for which the present day is more distinguished than its devotion to youthful culture. The varied sciences, which, but a few short years since, were contained only in ponderous volumes, accessible to few, and then presented in such a form as that they could be comprehended only by ripened intellects, have now been simplified and brought down almost to the level of the infant's mind, and generally diffused. So remarkable is our day for the facilities of information, so accessible are the sources of knowledge, that there is truth in the remark, so often uttered in the spirit of satire, that "all our boys are men; it is a fact they are men in mind at an age when their parents were but children. It is a natural result of the present system of things. As we look, then,

at the crowds of young immortals who throng our streets, the inquiry is an interesting one—What character are they to develop in the circumstances in which they are placed, and what is to be the sphere and nature of future action? We know that those energies are all to be brought forth, and to tell in some direction with great efficiency; and in their hands are lodged the means of the ruin or the glory of the community. They may prostrate in an hour all that has been consecrated by past generations to truth, virtue, and happiness; or they may lay their foundations deeper, and send their influence far beyond the limits within which they are now confined.

Statesmen and philosophers understand this matter perfectly, hence the simplifying of knowledge, and the facilities for its attainment, which are so wondrously multiplying; hence the system of national instruction which has sprung up, and is maintained by public sentiment and by public resources. The days of ignorance in this land have gone by; the days of light have come. There will be mental development. You might as well roll back the Atlantic as stay the advancing tide of intelligence. Yes, and we may glory in this, as one of the peculiar features of our age; and he is not a man, much less a Christian, who would wish it changed: and yet, amid all the appliances of means of intellectual culture, which abound so greatly, there is no influence which determines the character of that development which they certainly secure—there is no assurance, in any of our civil arrangements, that the mind we are thus educating will not be a wild and ungovernable mind—and instructed in righteousness, with powers fitted for mighty achievements, but wholly ignorant of the moral influence which alone can direct those powers to right ends.