

attention. What is needed is a schoolroom so arranged that each class will have a separate apartment for themselves. This could be done by means of curtains that will fall and rise at the will of the superintendent. This is no new project, but one that has been carried into practical effect, as I have heard, in some schools in the City of Philadelphia. Shut off from the rest of the school, if the class is still inattentive, then the cause must lie in the scholar or in the teacher. Sometimes one unruly scholar diverts the attention of the whole class from the lesson. Indeed some boys seem to delight in such mischief and to be proud of their success in that direction.

While in the City of Ottawa I taught a class of boys, whose ages would range from nine to twelve years. There was one boy in the class that caused me much anxiety. He was a restless spirit, pinching and sticking pins into his companions. He was always at some mischief. I endeavored by kindness to overcome him, but it was of no avail. It was only by threatening to report him to the superintendent that he was kept within any reasonable bounds. It is not often that we meet such a boy, but when we do I believe the better way would be to separate him from the class and give him a teacher that could give his or her undivided attention to him, for such a character needs as much attention as a whole class. Better to do this than to expel him from the school. The majority of those who misbehave in their classes and thus divert the attention of their companions can be brought to see the wrong they are committing by the teacher talking to them privately, either after the school is dismissed or in their own homes which is much better.

Inattention often arises from ignorance of the lesson. We generally find that the scholar who has the lesson well prepared before coming to school is the most attentive, which fact goes to show the advisability of parents helping the teachers to secure attention by hearing their children recite their lessons at home. The latest innovation in Great Britain in regard to Sabbath Schools touches upon this point, viz., the formation of Sunday School home classes. If such a state of things were introduced in this country the result would be very beneficial indeed.

Sometimes, however, the teacher is the cause of inattention; the lesson has been neglected, or perhaps they are without the necessary helps to enable them to prepare the lesson so as to make it interesting to the class. How can a teacher who has neglected to