

ought at least to be taught and to know what their Christian faith is, what their duties are and why they are Churchmen. I cannot but think that, if, instead of taking all this for granted, and being content with a mere willingness and consent to be confirmed, the occasion were taken in all cases, whether of children or adults, for thorough instruction in the fundamental principles of Christian faith and duty, and of the Church of God; we should see less practical indifference and disloyalty, of giving grudgingly and meagrely, of subordinating Christian duty to convenience or self-interest, and more earnest, whole-hearted, loving devotion to Christ and the Church than is usual among large numbers of our people.

I have noticed, in visiting some of our missions, an unpardonable lack of familiarity with the Services. The responses are feeble and listless. Many do not respond at all. Many seem unable to find the place. They are willing apparently to go on in their indifferent and heedless ways, in ignorance of the simplest things, which they might learn by a few moments' intelligent study. They have been habituated to forms of worship, in which the people had no heart, and little attention was demanded of them. A Service that requires undivided attention, an earnest and devout mind, the constant effort to conform to and use it with spiritual profit, they cannot understand or appreciate. They bring their accustomed habits of indevoutness and irreverence into the Church, and help thereby to make it as bald and uninteresting as any other.

In one way this shows how the

Church is growing by attracting those without. If not they, at least their children, will learn to use aright the Church's spiritual aids and instrumentalities. But why should they not learn them? I suggest that it would be well, in starting mission work, or in the early stages of any mission or parish, to resolve the congregation sometimes into a school for thorough instruction in the Prayer Book and its uses, and for practice in the proper rendering of the Services. These things are too important to be left to take care of themselves. In every Society that has forms and ceremonies, the members are taught from the first the ritual. The fact that the forms of devotion are all printed in a book does not supersede this necessity. Let the clergy carefully consider how to bring their people to a devout participation in the Services.—*Am. Bishop's Address.*

THE FUTURE OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

My own belief is that the Sunday School has before it a more important place in the Church system than it has ever yet possessed since Europe became Christian. The increasing interest in secular education, the ever multiplying subjects of study and the consequent tendency to diminish the religious instruction in day schools, in some to drop it altogether, from division of religious opinion—these things seem to indicate to the Church the necessity of reviving and developing her own catechetical schools upon the Sunday (possibly hereafter to some extent upon the Saturday also) if she is to counteract the non-religious system