

### Imperceptible Influence.

THE Sabbath School teacher, however faithful, is constantly constrained to take up the lamentation of the prophet, "Who hath believed our report?" He sees no fruit of his labor, and he is inclined to fear that it is bearing none. He has no tangible evidence that he is doing any good, and he is depressed by the feeling that he is engaged in an unprofitable employment.

But let him not despair or despond. Though the fruit of his labor "doth not yet appear," he may be sure that it is not in vain. Though his pupils *seem* to leave the school just as they came, it is certain that they do not. If he is faithful every session leaves upon them an abiding impression. Every Gospel truth lodged in the mind of the pupil is good seed committed to the soil, and though it may not immediately spring up, it will not be lost.

It exerts an influence upon both mind and heart. It is a theory of mental philosophy, that every truth of which the mind takes cognizance becomes a permanent possession of the intellectual man. Though it soon seems to be forgotten, it is really and permanently retained in the mind. Now, if this theory is true—and it cannot be disproved—it affords the strongest encouragement to a teacher of youth. Every lesson imparted, in leaving a permanent impression upon the mind, does something to prepare the heart for the work of the Holy Spirit. It is through the truth lodged in the mind that the heart is eventually renewed. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter i. 23). This passage appears to confirm the theory above presented. The word of God lives and abides for ever in the intellectual nature, and in the quickening of this "incorruptible seed" by the Holy Spirit is the soul converted to Christ.—*Sunday School World*.

WHAT HE WAS GOOD FOR.—"What are you good for?" said a gentleman to a little boy. "Good to make a man of," was the prompt, appropriate, and significant reply. Teacher, think of it, and be careful what kind of man you make.

### What Makes a Live Superintendent.

BY REV. C. L. WELLS.

THE first qualification we look for in a Sunday-school superintendent is one that we demand of him in common with every one who claims to do work in the name of Christ—a firm and abiding *faith* in the God of the Bible, as revealed in the Christ of the Gospel. The faith of the Christian worker should be to his spiritual being what the blood is to the body. 'The life is in the blood.' As the life current, impelled by the pulsations of the heart, flows into every vein and artery, seeking out the needs of every part of the body, giving the eye its brilliancy, painting the health-color on the cheek, animating even thought itself with electric fire that the sound body communicates to the mind working through it,—so faith must permeate the whole spiritual being of the man, expanding, guiding, controlling thought, purpose, and act, so that all is done for and in the name of 'Christ.' On such a foundation you may construct almost any building you choose. The solid rock never sinks. But faith is only the starting-point. It is not every one who firmly believes, and who exhibits in daily life devoted *piety*, that is fitted to conduct a Sunday-school. No more than every good man who can talk is therefore qualified to preach. There are certain qualities that seem especially desirable in one who would assume that position.

*First*.—His first qualification should be *common sense*. Good common sense is not so plentiful a commodity as we have been in the habit of supposing. Many men have *uncommon sense*; that is to say, rare judgment for great occasions, yet none worth speaking of for everyday use. Impracticable men, always living in a cloud-land of theory, are not the men on whom you rely in an emergency. If work is to be done, the plain, practical, common-sense man is the one to do it *best*. Preeminently a Sunday-school Superintendent needs this quality. He will find theories of Sunday-school work, government, and instruction in all its branches as plentiful