

addition of being dressed in their better frocks, coats or hats, and packed off to the Sunday School.

Now, until our parents have a higher ideal of the Sabbath, we need not be surprised if our Sabbath Schools do not bring forth fruit an hundred fold. I lay special stress on the holy observance of the Sabbath, not in the Puritanic or Sabbatarian sense as these terms are applied, but in a much more rigid sense than the reactionists of the present day would educate us down to. We have heard much of the rigidity of the Scotch Sabbath. Many of the wrong impressions in regard to it, current in the form of good stories, are excrescences rather than the thing itself. To judge it by these would be as fair as to put the barky excrescences of some of the finest trees of the forest, for the clear white timber beneath. At any rate, it seems to me, that if parents did themselves, and taught their children, to regard the Sabbath as a day to be spent in putting forth all the energies of the will to withdraw from worldly associations, a day of earnest seeking for close communion with the Creator, shutting out from the avenues of the senses all perturbing influences, and above all consecrating these efforts by heart-felt solicitations for Divine aid, it would be a better preparation for the good seed of the Sabbath School, a more efficient means of regulating the conduct during the ensuing week, and permanently influencing the character, than the sort of general holiday observance it has become almost fashionable to advocate.

Then, too, though many of our Sabbath School teachers are so full of zeal and wisdom that is not of earth that they will, no doubt, count many souls for their hire, yet, too often, the children at an age the most susceptible of heart-reaching impressions, are under the care of some well-meaning but inexperienced girl, scarce safe past the middle of her teens: or some nice young man, with intentions equally good, but equally untrained and hardly less juvenile. To expect signal success from these while those who should be fathers and mothers in Israel, remain in indolence at home, would be as reasonable as to be sanguine of the result when raw recruits who never underwent their baptism of fire, bear the brunt of battle, while the experienced warriors and veterans of many a tented field, retire in easy indifference to their quarters.

This state of things will hardly change for the better so long as the Sabbath School is made the alpha and the omega of early spiritual training. Instead, it can hardly be more than a meeting for parade and review; to exhibit the progress made by the home drill during the week. It should be a meeting in the parlour of the week's edifice. But as no