

from your closet to your pulpit with the inward groanings of the Spirit pressing for utterance upon your lips. See that "the fear of man that bringeth a snare" is not upon you. Let your people understand that you fear God too much to be afraid of them. Preach from experience, and not from hearsay, or mere reading and study. Give your most earnest thought to the study of ways and means by which you may save souls. Make this the great and intense study of your life. Beware of leaning on commentaries. Consult them when convenient, but judge for yourself, in the light of the Holy Ghost. Never let the question of your popularity with your people influence your preaching. Never let the question of support deter you from declaring the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or forbear. Do not temporize, lest you lose the confidence of your people, and thus fail to save them. They cannot thoroughly respect you as an ambassador of Christ if they see that you dare not do your duty. Be especially attentive to the wants and instruction of the poor. Suffer not yourself to be bribed into a compromise with sin by donation parties. See that your own habits are in all respects correct; that you are temperate in all things. Avoid all affectation and sham in all things. Be what you profess to be, and then you will have no temptation to "make believe." Suffer not yourself to be publicly treated as a pauper, or you will come to be despised by a large class of your hearers.

Sunday-School Excursions.

AN excursion, especially from the crowded city to the green woods or pleasure fields, is a pleasant thing, provided it be rightly managed. There is something benevolent, too, in the idea of taking the children of poverty from heated attics, and swarming, mephitic streets, down the flowing rivers and across the rippling bay, to spend a day under heaven's broad canopy and in the untainted air. It may be well, too, for children to associate a day of innocent pleasure with the institution which is their religious educator. All this we

concede to a Sunday-school excursion *in the abstract*.

Now our *ideal* excursion supposes that the spirit of the institution it represents be embodied in it. Constituted authority, order, cheerfulness, moderation, and piety preside over it. Unknown and irresponsible persons, amusements of doubtful character, roystering and license, are excluded from it. Its participants, young and old, are all known to the officers or teachers, are submissive in all things to the conductors of the school, attend the religious exercises proper to the occasion, and go home feeling that they have spent both a pleasant and profitable day—profitable to the body, cheering to their flagging spirits, and encouraging to their religious aspirations.

Now if our city Sunday-school excursions are of this character, we wish to be counted among their advocates and supporters, albeit we have little or no time to attend them. But *are they?* Can a large city Sunday-school get up and conduct an excursion in that spirit of cheerful Christianity which should characterize *every* gathering of a Sunday-school? That's the question. Brethren familiar with these excursions can best answer it.

We have heard of excursions preceded by the indiscriminate peddling of tickets by the children on the Sabbath, so as to make the affair a paying one to the school, and attended by swarms of disorderly youths, boys defiant of all authority, shouting and rushing round the boat or barge like wild Indians, to the discomfort of nervous ladies and the terror of little girls. We have heard of excursions at which "copenhagen" and similar silly games, whose only charm is in the kissing which accompanies them, were the staple amusements of the day; at which romping, fiddling, and dancing were tolerated; where the swinging was monopolized by rude romping girls; and from which religion was wholly excluded. We do not affirm that these abuses are general, or that they have occurred in connection with the schools of our Church, or that they are inseparable from excursions. We only affirm that such things have been described to us, and that we have in