

churches there are no longer classes of catechumens. In many Methodist Episcopal churches, altho the *Book of Discipline* of that Church is very explicit on the subject, there are no classes of children and youth in which the pastor conforms to the well-known Paragraph 46, which reads as follows: 'The pastor shall organize the baptized children of the Church, when they are at the age of ten years or younger, into classes, and appoint suitable leaders (male or female), whose duty it shall be to meet them in class once a week, and instruct them in the nature, design, and obligations of baptism, and in the truths of religion necessary to make them 'wise unto salvation'; urge them to give regular attendance upon the means of grace; advise, exhort, and encourage them to an immediate consecration of their hearts and lives to God, and inquire into the state of their religious experience.' This same pregnant paragraph provides, 'that children unbaptized are not to be excluded from these classes.' The fear which I express is that the pastor does not organize young people and bring them under his personal direction and teaching, as the statutes of most churches require, and as the very fact of his pastoral relation renders imperative. To the Sunday-school and the young people's organization is turned over all this important work, and instead of the pastor we have untaught, inexperienced, and, too often, worldly men and women, and these not always wise with the experience of age, to fulfil functions of the most delicate and sacred character.

"The pastor should therefore *find* his place in the Sunday-school as pastor, and proceed to organize such classes, to provide such courses of instruction and himself to supervise them, that he may remove from the thought of the Church, and especially from the thought of childhood, that somehow the Sunday-school is a substitute for the pastorate, and that Sunday-school teachers are sufficient to do the work which the commission of the Master imposes upon the ministry—the feeding of the lambs, the teaching of Holy Scriptures which make 'wise unto salvation,' and which teach, reprove, correct, and instruct in righteousness those who are to be, if they are not already, formally enrolled as disciples of Christ."

Moreover, to bring back home instruction to be what it should be, an efficient aid in training for the Church; to show parents, and make them feel, that

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Sunday-school—his Place,  
*Review* for February, 1896,