

witness of Me ; and ye will not come to me that ye may have life."

I would like to encourage us—fathers and mothers—to read the Scriptures to our little ones, and teach them to love its pages, and learn its most precious verses. In no period of life can we as easily commit these verses to memory, and retain them as long as in youth.

How brightly will the aged grandmother repeat Bible verses, learned during her childhood, when age steals away the memory of recent occurrences.

I would ask the young people to take time from their lessons, and everyday duties and pleasures, to learn by heart—that means more than merely committing to memory—at least one Scripture verse each day. Your Heavenly Father will often present them to your minds as vividly as if spoken to your outward ears ; then, in some moment of temptation, their remembrance will keep you from yielding thereto. Jesus himself was well versed in the law and the prophets, and Paul places Timothy's knowledge of the Bible high among his advantages, for he writes to him : "From a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith, which is in Christ Jesus."

It is also recorded of the people of Berea, "that they were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so." Our dear friend, Sunderland P. Gardner, records in his Memoirs that, when a boy, he saw the necessity of separating from the company of the lads in the neighborhood, and of keeping much by himself, occupying his leisure time, and First day afternoons, in reading the Scriptures and other religious books. He was never at a loss for a Scripture passage when engaged in the ministry, and the foundation of his love for the Bible was constructed in childhood, and is

given in these words : "My mother would frequently, when at work, seat me near her, and instruct me to read in the Bible, and would explain passages in answer to my many questions, endeavoring to impress my mind with the value of the more important subjects set forth in the Scriptures."

We are busy mothers and fathers, and this takes time ; but how could our time be better employed ? Of what profit is it to array the little bodies in pretty clothes, and leave mind and spirit naked ? Dollars and cents and land are not the most precious legacies we may leave our children, but sacred memories of home life and teachings, which shall help them, in future years, to keep in the right path. My own dear father found time from labor, necessary to support a large family, to read to us from the Bible, and the quiet twilight hour, when he would gather his little flock to his side, and talk to us of the "beauty of holiness," sometimes offering audible prayer to his Heavenly Father that He would be with his dear ones, has never been forgotten by his children. Though they have fallen far short of what he desired for them, those impressions then received will ever live in their memories.

Then let us learn to love our Bibles, not as the only word God ever gives us, but as running parallel with, and confirming by the word he gives us, in our hearts.

"Nor change to weary burdens,
The helps that should uplift ;
Nor lose in form the spirit—
The Giver in the gift."

HOW SHALL WE TEACH THE BIBLE IN OUR FIRST-DAY SCHOOLS ?

Paper written, and read by Lydia J. Mosher at the First-day School Conference, held during the early meeting week at New York, Fifth month 27th, 1866.

In the first place I wish to say a word about the Bible itself. We all know the criticism to which it has been subjected in recent years, and the