

SUNDAY SCHOOL BARRER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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The Ministry of Song.

"In God's great field of labor
All work is not the same;
He hath a service for each one
Who loves his holy name.
And you, to whom the secrets
Of all sweet sounds are known,
Rise up! for he hath called you
To a mission of your own;
And, rightly to fulfill it,
His grace can make you strong,
Who to your charge hath given
The Ministry of song.

"Sing to the little children,
And they will listen well;
Sing grand and holy music,
For they can feel its spell.
Tell them the tale of Jesus;
Then sing them what he said—
'Deeper and deeper still,' and watch
How the little cheek grows red,
And the little breath comes quicker;
They will ne'er forget the tale
Which the song has fastened surely,
As with a golden nail.

"I remember, late one evening,
How the music stopped for, hark!
Charlie's nursery door was open,
He was calling the dark—
'Oh, no! I am not frightened,
And I do not want a light;
But I can not sleep for thinking
Of the song you sang last night,—

Something about a 'valley,'
And 'make rough places plain,'
And 'Comfort ye'—so beautiful!
Oh! sing to me again!"

Prevention Better than Cure.

To reclaim the prodigal is well, but to save him from being a prodigal is better. To bring back the thief and the drunkard is a praiseworthy action, but so to act that the boy shall never become a thief or a drunkard is far better. He who converts a child from the error of his way, prevents as well as covers a multitude of sins.

And, moreover, it gives the church the hope of being furnished with the best of men and women. The church's Samuels and Solomons are made wise in their youth; Davids and Josiahs were tender of heart when they were tender in years. Read the lives of the most eminent ministers, and you shall usually find that their Christian history began early. Though it is not absolutely needful, yet it is highly propitious, to the growth of a well developed Christian character, that its foundations should be laid on the basis of youthful piety. I expect to see the churches of Jesus Christ ordinarily built up, not by those who through life have lived in sin, but by bringing up in their midst, in the fear and admonition of the Lord, young men and women who become pillars in the house of our God.—*Spurgeon.*