

is the knowledge thus obtained. The lessons committed and studied, are more deeply impressed by repetition and by the side lights thrown upon them by the teacher and by others of the class, and the pupil carries away, stored in memory, some instructive portion of Bible history or doctrine, that may be a harbor light or a beacon light in time of temptation. Then there are the precious verses of scripture or hymns, that, stored up in memory, become part of the character, for every thought original, or borrowed is a stone in character building, or, if you will, a stroke, a touch, in character shaping, and these thoughts, lofty in character, beautiful in expression, do their part towards the perfect shaping of the character into the likeness of Him who is our perfect pattern. While there may be exceptions, seldom is it that one whose memory has been in childhood well stored with scripture, hymn, and psalm, has ever gone astray.

And then there is the rich, sweet treasure thus laid up for thought food when life's winter comes. Not long since I visited a woman of great age, helpless, blind, and very deaf, almost shut out from the world, but for every thought mentioned she would find expression in some apt and beautiful verse, strange to me, but that had been new and loved when she had learned it, long years ago.

(3.) A third duty of the parent to the Sabbath school is to speak well of the teacher. This is but following out the line of thought along which I have been speaking, viz., the duty of the parent to make the best use of this helper, the Sabbath School. In order to do this not only must the child be sent with lessons well prepared, but with such an attitude of mind toward the teacher as will receive, in a spirit of love and trust the instruction given.

A slighting, contemptuous word, spoken by a parent, with regard to a Sunday School teacher (or minister) will do much toward counteracting the most earnest and faithful efforts on the part of that teacher (or minister) for the child's good. It is something from which the child will perhaps never wholly recover. The parent who thus, thoughtlessly, it may be, speaks disparagingly of the teacher, in the presence of the children, is doing these children an irreparable wrong, while the one who, so far as it can honestly be done, commends, does much to strengthen the hands of such teacher and consequently to bring good to the child. Life and death are in the power of the tongue, says the good book, and in no case is this more true than in the effect which the words of parents may have on the influence of a S. S. teacher with their children.

(4) Following on this same line of thought, viz., the duty of the parent to make the best use of this helper, we meet a further duty of the parent to the S. School, that is, prayer. It is not enough to use the helper, not enough to send the child with lessons well prepared, and mind well disposed toward the teacher, that the best results may be obtained, we must remember that neither is he that planteth anything, nor he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase, and the list of duties of the parent toward the Sabbath School would be incomplete without this one.

There is prayer for the school, for the teacher, for the children, I will not speak particularly of these because all who believe in prayer believe in the importance of such prayer, and may we not hope, practice it, but there is one duty that lies very closely along the line that we have been following, and that is the duty of the parent, and those that are performing the parent's part, when the children come home from the Sabbath school, to take them alone with God, praying with them and for them that the lesson they have learned and studied may be blessed unto them.

What a grand keystone to the arch of the parents duty toward its helper the Sabbath School. Throughout the week, day after day, line upon line, the lesson has been taught. Sabbath comes, and with lessons learned and mind turning lovingly toward the teacher, the child goes to Sabbath School, the Sabbath School, the parent helper, does its work, the child comes home, and now all is done that human power can do and the parent takes the child to God and pleads with Him who has the power that He would bless the work that has been done.

—The ability of children to judge the merits of a sermon should never be underestimated. Not only is praise perfected, but criticism from the mouth of babes and suckling is worthy of honor. "A gentleman in New England was called on to address a Sabbath-school, and during his remarks he seemed much moved, but no one else appeared to experience the slightest emotion. The speaker continued to wipe away his tears which chased each other down his manly cheeks when a boy in one class said to his neighbor: 'Say, Charlie, do you know what that old duffer is crying about?' 'Well, said Charlie, 'if you had to make a speech, and hadn't anything more to say than he has, you'd feel bad too.'"