

agers, the light-ship was not without its uses. Its position denoted something. The spot where it was anchored was one deserving attention and caution. There must be a dangerous coast near, and a reference to the chart would point out where. But it is when the sun has gone down, and darkness, as a veil, covers the face of all nature, the light-ship becomes the guiding star of the bewildered voyager, who steers by its friendly light, and feels himself in safety.

And so, in days of darkness, should the christian's light shine forth with no uncertain brightness. In times of trial and adversity, if we are safely anchored, if we carry our lights high, the surrounding darkness of the valley of humiliation, in which we are called to walk, will only make it burn with a purer and a steadier light. The very shadows of the hills of difficulty, over which we pass, will but bring out, in greater contrast, this precious light. The deep waters through which we pass, will but reflect its brightness. The most rugged paths we tread, will but render more invaluable this guide to the path, this lamp to the feet. My dear reader, are you a light-ship—shining thus—giving to others what has been given you? A medium of communication between Jesus and the world, by your lesser light proclaiming Him who is the light of the world.

M. A. R.

TEACHERS' CORNER.

ADDRESS

Read by one of the Superintendents of the Congregational Sabbath School, Adelaide Street, Toronto, at a quarterly public prayer meeting in the Congregational Chapel, 14th October, 1850.

The work of instruction has been very appropriately compared with gardening, for in many respects are the duties of the Teacher similar to those of the gardener. The word of God has by Christ himself been called the seed, but I would ask my fellow teachers, what they would think of the gardener who should sow the seed without preparing the ground? A good gardener will not only dig the ground, but he will also make it his study, to sow in every particular spot, the seed which is best suited for it: so the good teacher will study the dispositions and qualifications of his scholars, and adapt his instructions to the wants of every one of them. As the gardener will consider before he enters upon his work, what he has to do, and bring with him what is required, so the teacher should come to his seat prepared beforehand for the work of the day. It is required next that the seed should be watered, and as he who should neglect this important duty, would

be considered a very foolish gardener, so is that teacher foolish indeed, who neglects to water by his prayers, and not only occasionally, but daily, the instructions which he imparts. As the gardener watches the plants as they spring up out of the ground and continue to grow, so ought the teacher to watch the progress of his scholars, and not only at school, he should also make it his duty to visit them from time to time at their homes. Another important work in a garden is weeding, rooting out that which would hinder the growth of the plants; and the teacher also finds enough of this work, for much of that which is evil has he to root out in the hearts of the children.—In the different success they meet with there is likewise great similarity. Some trees seem hardly to bring forth leaves, but a good gardener will not despair, he will still try another year and dig around them; other trees are filled with blossoms, but even there, though they promise ever so fair, may still disappoint; others again are already shewing some fruit, but perhaps the fruit is sour—there may be knowledge without being a saving knowledge; the conversion of the soul, that ripe delicious fruit, which every faithful laborer looks forward to with faith and prayer, and which he will surely obtain though it may be delayed.

I would add a few words to the Parents. What would you think of the owner of a garden, who would content himself with engaging a gardener and never go near the spot to see if he did his duty, to see what plants were growing in his garden, if they were healthy and promising, bearing flowers and fruits, or if they were sickly and stunted, perhaps choked by weeds, by thorns and briars? How greatly encouraged will a gardener feel, when the owner shows, that he appreciates his endeavors to make this garden a pleasant spot, that he delights to spend an hour amongst the flowers and trees, bestowing praise on the faithful laborer for his diligence and care, and conversing with him upon what is promising and what might be improved, and by supplying what is wanted. We would therefore again invite the parents, as we have done before, to visit our garden, and above all things to water the seed which we sow by their prayers. We would entreat them to consider, that their children are with us only a small part of one day out of the seven, and as a garden, which had only the occasional care of a gardener, would require a great deal of the owner's labours; so do your children need a vast amount of your care, and much can you do, to assist the teachers by enquiring of your children when they return from school what they have learnt, and urging, yea, even assisting them to prepare during the week for the lessons of the next Sunday.

Who would, however, be so foolish as to