

"Can nothing be done for them?" asked Mr. Raikes. "Poor children! Is there anybody near who will take them to School on a Sunday?"

To carry out his benevolent design for the children, he sought the help of the Rev. Thos. Stock, an excellent clergyman in Gloucester. Raikes told him his plan; the clergyman was so pleased that he promised all the help in his power; and this he gave him many a time by going to the schools on the Sunday afternoon to examine the children, and see what progress they had made.

The plan was this: the children were to go soon after ten in the morning and stay till twelve; they were then to go home, and return at one, and after reading a lesson, they were to be taken to Church. After Church they were to be employed in repeating the catechism, till half-past five, and then to be dismissed, being strictly enjoined not to make a noise on their way home, and by no means to play in the streets.

Mr. Raikes' first schools were more like the ragged schools of our day.

Raikes' success soon led others to copy his example, and to establish more Sunday Schools in other parts. In 1785, a "Society for the Support and Encouragement of Sunday Schools in the different Counties in England" was instituted. In the course of four years from the commencement of Sunday Schools, there were no less than 250,000 children being taught on the Lord's Day.

We have no space to follow up the history of Sunday Schools, but we know our Young People will be pleased to learn how these were first started, and to see the pictures in our first page, especially the portrait of Raikes'. It may also interest them to know that now there are in the world twelve millions three hundred and forty thousand, three hundred and sixteen Sunday School scholars, with one million four hundred and sixty thousand, eight hundred and eighty teachers. What an army!

If you were to collect all the men, women and children in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, British Columbia, North West Territories, Prince Edward Island, there would only be about one-third as many as there are Boys, Girls and Teachers in Sunday Schools of the World.

Robert Raikes died at Gloucester, April 5, 1811. But he lived long enough to see his work taken up earnestly by others, and now that the Sunday School System has been in existence for a hundred years, a Bronze Statue in honour of its founder has been erected on the Thames Embankment.

But while we thus honour his memory, the millions of children and the thousands of teachers who now meet week after week, all over the world, are the most lasting memorial of one who rests from his labours and whose works follow him.

The Passover.

Exodus xii.



IF you turn to the twelfth chapter of Exodus you will read that the time had come when the children of Israel were to prepare to leave Egypt. But before they left, something had to be done: a lamb was to be slain — its blood to be taken and sprinkled outside each door, on the side-post, and at the top, so that the angel who was sent to destroy the Egyptian first born, might see the sign and not enter that house. The blood was a sign of the safety of the people, young or old; it kept away death from every house on whose door-posts it was sprinkled. God had commanded this.

This done, the doors were shut. The night was dark and all was quiet. The Egyptians slept; but the Israelites were awake, eating the lamb—for the flesh of the lamb was to be cooked and eaten with bitter herbs.

In the dead of night an angel came, and killed the first born in every house; but he passed over houses where the Israelites dwelt. So dear children Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. (1 Cor. v. 7). He was slain for us; and if we believe God and trust in what Jesus has done, God will forgive, or pass-over our sins for His sake.

Do not Wait.

"I WISH I was a big woman, to help you, mother," said a little girl.

"Bring mother's thimble; that will help me," said mother, smilingly. Just as if God meant for little children to wait until they grow up before helping their dear parents! No, no! God gave them two nimble feet on purpose to take steps for mother, and eight fingers and two thumbs on purpose to bring and carry for her.