

cells which constitute each tree, and our ears would be stunned as with the roar of a great city." We live in the midst of the unknown and the marvelous, our knowledge being constantly bounded by the limitations of our faculties. The wonderful revelations which science has opened to us suggest possibilities of whose nature and extent we can at present form no conception. We are in the border-land of the mysteries which, so far, are known only to Him who created and set in order all the wonderful machinery, but whose will it is that we open the doors and enter in. The flaming sword no longer hangs suspended over the gates of paradise to guard the way to the tree of life. With each succeeding discovery our conceptions are broadened in regard to Him who is the Maker of all; and so, also, our life is broadened, and we make a nearer approach toward Him who is infinite in knowledge and wisdom. But it is a joy to think that no expansion of our faculties, as the eternal ages move on, can ever enable us to fathom all the infinite resources of the Divine. We may continue to apprehend, but can never comprehend the unsearchable depths of his Being.—*Bible Teacher.*

A Sunday-school of the Olden Time.

The Arminian Magazine, of September, 1788, contains the following account of the Sunday-school at Bolton, England, which, in its day, was the largest and most flourishing school in the country:

"In the Methodist Sunday-school at Bolton there are about eight hundred scholars, forty masters, and nearly as many assistants of one kind or other. All that are employed in this school (whatever their offices are), offer their services willingly, without any pecuniary fee or reward. Every man stands close to his station, and enters into the spirit of his work with an intention to do all the good in his power to the children under his care. The masters love the children, and delight to instruct them; the children love their masters, and cheerfully receive instruction. It is about two years since they first began the school in one large convenient chapel; and the great good attending the undertaking appears more and more daily not only in Bolton, but in the adjacent places from whence children come constantly to the school, and others who live in the country several miles off.

"Many of the poor children about Bolton have been greatly neglected in their education and were almost a proverb for wickedness, especially Sabbath breaking, which crime is often the forerunner of the worst of evils.

"But we see at present the prospect of a glorious reformation. Among many who attend at one place, there is already a great change in their manners, morals, and learning. They are taught to read and write by persons who are very well qualified for the work. Many of the children can read well in the Bible, and write a tolerable hand; so that they are qualified for any common business. Their natural rusticity is also greatly worn off, and their behaviour is modest and decent. About one hundred are taught to sing the praises of God, in which they have made great proficiency, to the admiration of those who hear them.

"But what is better than all the rest, the principles of religion are instilled into their minds. The masters endeavour to impress them with the fear of God, and by that to make all vice and wickedness hateful to them; and urge them to obedience by the precepts spoken to separately every Sunday on this nature of religion, and are taught their duty to God, their neighbours, and themselves, when the instructions are enforced by serious counsels and solemn prayer."

Mr. Wesley, in his journal, also makes the following mention of this remarkable school:

"We went on to Bolton; about there I met between nine hundred and a thousand of the children belonging to our Sunday-schools. I never saw such a sight before. They were all exactly clean, as well as plain in their apparel. Many, both boys and girls, had as beautiful faces as, I believe, England or Europe can afford. When they all sung together, and none of them out of tune, the melody was beyond that of any theatre; and, what is best of all, many of them truly fear God, and some rejoice in His salvation. They are a pattern to the town. Their usual diversion is to visit the poor that are sick (sometimes six or eight or ten together), to exhort, comfort and pray with them. Frequently ten or more of them get together to sing and pray for themselves; sometimes thirty or forty; and are so earnestly engaged, alternately singing, praying, and crying, that they know not how to part."

Easter.

I WONDER if in heaven on Easter Day

The angels add new sweetness to their songs.

I wonder if among seraphic throngs

They deck themselves in lovelier array.

I wonder if their words now homage pay

To Him to whom the perfect grace belongs

Of leading us from all our earthly wrongs,
And opening out of sin life's holy way.

I wonder—nay, I will not wonder so;

It may be on this day the angels come

With footsteps falling lighter than the snow,

To bring God's peace to every earthly home;
And if we seek in quiet ways of prayer

We may behold the Saviour standing there.