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THE CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH.

ONE of the topics of discussion at a recent Sabbath school convention was, "How to retain the older scholars in the school and attach them permanently to the Church." The theme thus suggested is one of profound practical importance, and touches a weak point in our modern Church life. It is, however, only another way of stating, How best to promote *the growth in grace* of our children, and the gradual maturing of their Christian character, carrying out the Apostle's command, and bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This is a question that appeals very directly to all Christian people, and especially to those who are engaged in the practical work of the Church. It is a question of unspeakable moment to the young themselves which we would seek to press upon their earnest consideration, and we would ask them to ponder the significance of the relation they sustain, and the nature of Christian nurture under which they are placed.

I. THE NATURE OF CHRISTIAN NURTURE.

The settling of this question settles also the relation which the children sustain to the Church, and to Christ her Head. As to the nature of Christian nurture, Paul's teaching is very explicit. He says, "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."