

The world is growing better all the time. Those who do not think so, have not learned to read the signs. Sometimes, if we do not get things just our way, general disaster seems to us to be imminent. But the world is growing better, and it is because this frontier skirmisher, and that one, are doing their work as best they can.

Suppose all our teachers should "strife" wherever maps, ball frames and other equipments are not in their schools. There would be disaster in all the land. But the nation is moving on, because a good many are holding on and holding out, in spite of hindrances and handicaps.

If our work is pursued manfully and hopefully, our beliefs will largely take care of themselves. Morbid introspection is the parent of a good deal of the gloom that surrounds certain people. Those who are busy turning the country's furrows and tunneling its hills and sowing its wheat, have neither time nor cause for gloom. They are all optimists.

The world is hung right. We do not have to carry it on our shoulders. The cords sustaining it are good and strong, and God is holding them. Our part is to work away, with a smile on our face, and a confidence that at the sunset there will be a good definite achievement which will endure forever.

The world is hungry for workers maintaining this spirit, and will take them on the task just as rapidly as they come seeking, and the wages are sufficient and sure.

Florence, Sydney Mines, N. S.

The Power of Intercession

By Rev. Robert Johnston, D.D.

[The sixth of a series of articles by Dr. Johnston on topics connected with the spiritual life of the Sabbath School teacher, as it affects his work.—EDITORS.]

The incidents are too many to recall, when, during our Lord's earthly ministry, anxious souls sought Him on behalf of afflicted ones dear to them,—a mother for her daughter, a master for his servant, sisters in sorrow, for whom the tomb, four days sealed, opened its doors and gave them back their dead.

And if we turn to the field of Church History subsequent to apostolic times, the illustrations are no less conspicuous or numer-

ous. The conversion of Augustine, greatest among the fathers of the church, he himself acknowledged to be the fruit of his mother's ceaseless intercession with God for him. It was the "praying band" of Oxford that prepared the way for the Evangelical Revival of the eighteenth century, while one has only to read something of pre-Reformation history to learn how heavily the condition of the church and of the world was resting upon the hearts of many saints of God, less bold, but not less devoted, than Luther himself, who gave God no rest through their unceasing intercession at the throne of grace.

The place of prayer in the recent remarkable Welsh revival is too well known to require more than mention.

There is nothing in all the realm of Christian experience and Christian activity that can possibly be of more profound interest to the Sabbath School teacher, than the subject of this ministry of intercession. Our heart fails us so often, when we consider our imperfect equipment for our great work: our lack of knowledge, of wisdom, of tact, our ignorance of the heart and home conditions of those in our classes, committed to our care for the most serious instruction, perhaps the only serious instruction, that they receive in all the round of their lives. "How can we reach them, how win them?" we half-despairingly ask ourselves. And the answer comes through Him in whose hand are all hearts, and whose love for those whom we love is infinitely greater than ours can be. Often (should we say, always?) the shortest way to another's heart is by way of the throne of God.

That teacher, however gifted in the art of instruction, however well equipped through careful preparation of the lesson, should go to his class with grave misgivings, who has not added to all this, intercessory prayer for every member of his class. Nothing else will create in his own heart the sympathy and longing for his class that is likely to find in their hearts sympathetic response; nothing else will equip him with the confidence and courage for his work that count for so much in successful teaching, as this.

To all that we can do to win our classes for Christ, let us add this—unceasing prayer;