

## A. Religious Session.

BY REV. GEORGE A. FELTZ, NEW JERSEY.

EVERY session of our schools should be decidedly religious. It may seem strange to insinuate that they are not so. The fact is, however, that many sessions are so irreverent and irreligious that only by a miracle of grace can good come from them.

At the very root of this defect is the fact that too few of our school workers have any definite purpose to secure a pervading religious tone in the sessions. Influence is too much regarded as proceeding only from teacher to pupil. The general drift of the entire audience is not supposed to be of much moment. That an opening hymn, or a Scripture-reading, or the superintendent's prayers, or the chorister's manner, or the review, or the parting words, or that any such exercises should be directly useful to the saving of a soul, is seldom expected.

All these things certainly contribute largely to the favorable use of the teacher's personal power. They constitute the setting in which the gem of influence he may possess shall sparkle to advantage or to disadvantage. The lustre of many such gems has been well-nigh obliterated by unfortunate surroundings. The superintendent, chorister, secretary, librarian, and each other general officer of the school should remember this relation of his work to the closer work of each teacher. All mere business-like banging around, or jobbing about, should be stopped. Nothing should be done which can be spared. Simplicity of movement and of organization should be studied. All that needs doing should be done reverently, religiously.

We need not run into the error of a good man, whose chief aim was to make the Sunday-school "very solemn." Nor need we swing to the other extreme in our zeal to make the school "so entertaining." A cheerful godliness is an apt title for what should pervade each session of every school. Let scholars see that there is a happy, holy way of living, and that the aim of the school is to lead everybody into this way.

Unquestionably, the superintendent is chiefly responsible in this matter. Unless

he be a man of high-toned piety, his school will not excel in this respect. And his piety may be overridden, unless he be able with a strong, steady hand, to really superintend. A clownish chorister, or a boorish secretary, can easily overturn most of the influence of a spiritual superintendent. Better men must fill these subordinate positions, or they must be sternly superintended. It will not do to allow influence to be scattered by foolish men.

One of the very best promoters of a general devoutness among workers in a school is a brief preliminary prayer-meeting. Those who have been in the habit of holding such meetings for fifteen minutes before opening the exercises of the school, prize it very highly. It promotes devotional feeling, and it secures agreement in the work to be done. At such meetings special prayer should be offered against disturbing influences. He would be a hard-hearted man who, in the face of such prayers, could sing or distribute books, or do aught else in a damaging way. If any assistant tended inevitably towards disturbance, he should be prayed for and labored with, and if all this failed, he should be dismissed.

The importance of a pervading religious tone should be frequently urged. Many fail to pursue it because they fail to appreciate its value. Let us constantly keep prominent the idea that each session shall be thoroughly and highly religious. With this as the ideal before us, let all likely means be used for its realization.

—●—  
**THAT'S HOW.**—*Keeping at a thing with a will is the great secret of success in life.*

After a great snow-storm, a little fellow began to shovel a path through a large snow-bank before his grandmother's door. He had nothing but a small shovel to work with.

"How do you expect to get through that drift?" asked a man passing along.

"By keeping at it," said the boy cheerfully, "that's how."

That is the secret of mastering almost every difficulty under the sun. If a hard task is before you, stick to it. Do not keep thinking how large or how hard it is; but go at it, and then, little by little, it will grow smaller until it is done.

"Op  
 said t  
 If thi  
 much  
 depart  
 intens  
 make  
 day-so  
 innun  
 any  
 There  
 -wh  
 by an  
 the p  
 tax ar  
 is ask  
 things  
 swer  
 Dr.  
 the g  
 his be  
 the ty  
 I don't  
 The  
 shake  
 enoug  
 capital  
 deman  
 If thes  
 ignoran  
 of thei  
 blessed  
 would  
 It v  
 needie  
 least  
 ablet  
 who ar  
 to gras  
 work.  
 No  
 that he  
 sand se  
 enrich  
 easy ac  
 caution  
 or ther  
 helples  
 self wi  
 then re  
 gation,  
 become  
 The