

ing, and sobbing, exclaiming, "O, my boy, my boy!" and hastened away to tell the story of his breaking heart to his stricken wife. So these little ones all covered with defilement, sinking in mire, dead in sin, are *God's children*, for Christ's sake you take them up, press them to your heart, instruct them, pray over them, until there comes the quickening life, and they arise and put on clean robes even the righteousness of God which is by faith in Christ Jesus. You are working upon material that is imperishable.

The other day I drove from the splendid Boulevards of Paris through the Latin-Quarter to visit the manufactory of the Gobelin tapestry. The work is slow and difficult and the artist toils patiently on day after day, week after week, month after month, with only the knotty side before him, ever and anon looking at the pattern, until at length the work completed he turns it over and there is the same master picture so beautifully inwrought in the tapestry that the costly fabric is fitted only to adorn the palaces of kings. So you teachers toil on the minds which God has put into your hands, having Christ as the pattern and trying to impress his dear image there, implanting, instilling, moulding, fashioning, often weary and discouraged, seeing only the earthly side, but by and by the work will be completed, transfigured, glorified, admired by angels and redeemed spirits, the living soul upon which you have wrought, invested with His glory, shining in His splendors, shall adorn the golden palace of the King of kings. But your work is not confined to childhood. Too long the Sunday School has been belittled as a children's affair, and this is why we have had so anxiously to discuss the question "How can we keep our young people in the School?" The time is coming when we shall see in our schools not only the lambs of the flock, not only the youth of piety and culture, but strong men and women in middle life, venerable mothers, and grey haired servants of God. We must prepare for this and not only welcome and care for childhood, but also make provision to instruct and nourish them up to the highest Christian manhood and life.

*We welcome you not only as individual Teachers, but as a Convention.* These conventions are one of the signs of the times, one of the evidences of increasing religious activity and a fulfilment of the prophecy "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." So many earnest wide-awake workers of talent and culture, wise-headed, and warm-hearted, who have left their homes, their families, and their business, to take part in these deliberations, shows the grip which the School has on the heart of the age. There is something sublime in a multitude like this coming together animated by one thought, thrilling with one theme, and the stimulus of the audiences, the subjects discussed, the ability of the speakers, the zeal of the delegates, the prevailing spirit of fervent prayer, and holy