

So this great Sunday School movement is making progress quite equal to anything that is transpiring in the material world. Now, we are making progress in our methods of Bible study. I desire to put before you three reasons why there should be *better Bible study*. This very age of ideas demands it. We are living in a time when the intellectual pulse of the world is being quickened, when the intellectual vision is being broadened, and intellectual activity being enlarged. The very age demands that there shall be an increase of study along all lines. It is literally true that the boy upon the streets of Toronto of twelve years of age knows more than ever Socrates dreamed of. The little boys that play about us, and the girls in the public schools, are possessed of more accurate scientific knowledge, and of far wider scope than the sages of antiquity; and it is because of the ever-intensifying influences and progress of this age in which we are living. I fear sometimes—so rapidly are we moving forward, so quickly are we intensifying in all intellectual activity—that it is a sign of the speedy nearing of this old world to its final end; and yet I comfort myself in believing in the larger hope, that after all, this world is yet a baby in its swaddling clothes, and that God has wrapped up in it great masses of knowledge and of wealth, of material, art, and industry, and science, for the benefit of this old world. I believe that the age of which we are a part, demands that we should have better Bible study. And then I am sure of this, that the teacher's work requires that she shall be a better Bible student. There is a pressure upon the Sunday School teacher as a part of this great international Sunday School movement that did not exist in the ages of our fathers. From chaos we have come into order and discipline, wise management and careful administration of our Sunday School work and workers; and instead of the chaotic condition that obtained even in my own boyhood, I see this great convention, the very best building, and brethren of the Church gathered from all parts of a province like this, and assembled here for days to consider the wisest management and the best methods. And so there is a pressure brought to bear upon the individual teacher as never before in the history of the Church. Mark you what the teacher has to do. The teacher has not, like the secular teacher, to teach the books of this earth and then dismiss them from her thought, and send out the people to be further educated in the schools of art, and business, and commerce; but the Sunday School teacher in large measure is the only one who stands between the eternal and temporal destiny of the child. In my own State of Illinois, as in yours, there are countless hosts of boys and girls who come from godless homes, from irreligious training and culture, who are the special subjects of religious instruction at the hands of the Sunday School teacher. Their fathers and mothers have failed to meet the obligation definitely put upon them. The Church may not reach out its friendly hand and rescue them except