

Practical Papers.

THE TRUE POSITION OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

BY MR. JOHN CAMERON, B.A., WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

IT is the experience, not only of instructors of youth, but also of nearly all who have had subordinates in positions of responsibility and trust, that the best examples of obedience, of truthfulness, of natures sensitive to the higher impulses that quicken the human heart, of all the elements of a high type of man and Christian, have been found, other things equal, where the home training has been such as it is the true aim of the Sabbath School to foster.

In a country like ours, where the "arabs" are but few, the Sabbath School should be regarded only as the auxiliary of that domestic nurture and admonition of the Lord, which surrounds every Christian home as with a halo of brightness, and exerts its elevating and soul-softening influence on every member from the doting grandparent to the prattling babe.

In performing this auxiliary work Sabbath School teachers and superintendents should as readily discern any dereliction in the home work as the day-school master does in the preparation of the home lessons. Too often, it is to be feared, that instead of the irresistible earnestness of souls, glowing with the fervor of life interest in the work, parents manifest a chilling half-heartedness and discharge their duties in a manner merely formal and perfunctory. There is too great a disposition and too growing a tendency to leave to the Sabbath School teacher, to lay the cornerstone, erect the pillars, and place the coping of the spiritual education of the young.

The infrequency of the parents' visits to the Sabbath School may be taken as evidence of this; as may also, the habit of observing the sacred day of holy rest, the day of sweet repose and withdrawal from the cares of the world for closer communion with the Author of our being, and fellowship with his Son, simply as a holiday and a release from the routine of weekly toil; and so far as the children are concerned, as one on which they are to be washed, whipt, and fed as on other days, with the