

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

A SALARIED SUPERINTENDENT.

Some time ago one of the daily papers contained the statement that a certain Sabbath school in New England pays its Superintendant a regular salary, and that he devotes his whole time to the interests of the school, visiting families, looking after absent scholars and other similar employment. The school is a large one numbering about 1000 members, and thus requiring much time and thought in its proper management. This is to some extent a new departure in the right direction which is well worthy of the attention of all those engaged in the religious training of youth. It is of course not practicable, neither is it desirable to have paid officers in any one of the overwhelming majority of Sabbath schools, yet when the scholars are numbered by hundreds in any one, the advantages to be obtained by a properly trained and qualified leader must be apparent to all, while the time required in such a case is more than usually can be given by any one engaged in other daily toil. The above item of news, however, is suggestive, not so much as an example to be copied, as on account of the principles of which it is the exemplification. Sabbath schools for the most part, as at present conducted, are largely deficient in those things necessary to success in other fields of labor. There is but little of system, of wise forethought and of unintermitting attention to minute details. The teachers, as also the superintendent, too often obtain their positions, not on account of fitness, nor of the time at their disposal for the study of the lesson, or the visitation of their pupils, but simply on account of their tardily expressed willingness to help on the good work. This state of matters should not be, neither can we expect proper results until it is all changed. Our Saviour charged his disciples to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves," and if there is any sphere of Christian duty that calls for our best wisdom in planning and executing, most truly it is in the school where young minds are to be indoctrinated in the truths of salvation, and in the duties to which they are soon to be called as active members in the Church. God has given us tact and judgment, and we use them freely in the ordinary affairs of life. The farmer prepares the soil, sows the seed and prays for the Divine blessing in the copious showers, never doubting but that the harvest will assuredly come, which, again, patiently and carefully he gathers into his capacious barns, so, it is the same judgment and common sense, sanctified by Divine grace, that we so much need in our schools in order that the preparation of the young hearts and the sowing of the spiritual seed may produce an abundant harvest. Great progress has been made in this direction during the few years past, associations have been formed, and teachers' meetings held, in which the lessons are carefully studied, plans for the conduct of the school matured, methods of teaching and the general needs discussed, and above all united prayer is offered at the throne of grace. It was such a meeting of the disciples in the upper room at Jerusalem that preceded the Pentecostal effusion of the Holy Spirit, and it is upon such united intelligent prayerful effort that the promises are conditioned. "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."—*J. T.*