

my hand and I said, "You spoke that better than I did." He said, "I did not know you were in here, or I would not have done it; but I don't care; you have got no patent right on it." I said "No, I had not." Mr. Beecher said that once he heard a man preach his sermon right through. Now, I am not endorsing the right of a preacher to do that, although I would rather hear him preach a sermon of somebody else's, if it was a better one than he could get up himself, than preach his own (hear, hear), if he afterwards said it was not his. Beecher said he heard a man preach a whole sermon of his; and he said to him, "Brother, how long did it take you to prepare that?" He said, "Oh, about fifteen minutes;" and Beecher said, "Oh, it took me about two days and a half." (Laughter.) We first should study the Word of God, gather out what we can by praying, ask God to give us light, and think it over. When a historical lesson comes up, I first take my Bible and study it well, read it all over, and inquire, what is the history of this lesson; what has led up to it; and what transaction is this? I read it all over two or three times, and shut my Bible and tell my wife all about it in my own language, and say to her, "Have I left out anything?" I do this, and get it in my own mind. It is a good thing to ask your scholars to do that. "Now, look here, Johnny, next Sunday I am going to ask you to tell the rest of the boys all about this lesson;" and I say to the boys: "Now, boys, make yourselves familiar with it, so that you will be able to tell whether he has it right or not." Then you should ask yourselves, is there any person I am not familiar with mentioned in it? Get down your Bible Dictionary and find out about that. Then, another thing, the place; where did it occur? Get down your Bible Dictionary again, and find out all about it; because anything you find *yourself* is more valuable to you, and you will remember it longer than if it is given to you off-hand, and you have no trouble about it. I should enjoy a glass of water more if I had to walk half a mile for it than if I had it handy. If anything costs trouble or pain, it is always valuable, and becomes more fixed in the mind. Then, after I have got that, I think over, "What does this teach?" The Lord has given us inspiration for a certain purpose. What do I learn from it? What do I personally learn from it myself? Let it teach us something, our own selves. Now, then, what can I teach others from it? And it is a good plan to have a little paper or a little book, and take these things down, for fear you at length lose them. Then afterward I take up the S. S. Lesson, or Help, whatever it may be. My denomination, the Union, wants some of these that are undenominational. I get the thoughts from them; I look over to see what they have brought out. If there is anything I have not thought of, I put it down, and I suppose I go over a half a dozen of these lesson helps every week when I am at home, for my class. I have not a class, but I think a Superintendent should study the lesson even more than the teachers. I find it easier to make a long speech than a short