

Mr. H. LYMAN said, not having heard the former speakers, I will merely throw out a few hints on the subject under contemplation. The object of the Sabbath School Institution is primarily the salvation of the soul. But another question comes up, who are the proper objects for this instruction? All would agree that, as far as possible, the children of the church, and those who had no pious instruction should alike be considered as proper objects of Sunday school effort. But besides this, it is of great importance that the minds of the children should be cultivated, and that they should, as far as possible, be moulded into symmetrical christian characters; for in the churches there are often to be observed persons of excellent views and feelings, who yet, for want of proper religious training in their youth, are a little awkward, and unable to understand everything which ought to be done. On the other hand those taught in the schools are ready for any good work and word, always prepared to take up any christian enterprize. They usually come early into the field, and become valuable Christians. It is frequently repeated that Paul may plant and Apollos may water, but that God alone can give the increase; and that is an important truth. But let it not be forgotten also, that Paul *must* plant and Apollo *must* water. It would be as reasonable to expect our crop of cereals to spring spontaneously from the earth, as to suppose that the christian character can be developed without effort, and, at the present day the instrumentality is to a large extent in the Sabbath school. The more generally this instrumentality can be applied the better for all concerned. I recollect the time when it was supposed that the Sabbath school was intended for the destitute only, and when it was a serious objection to families who supposed themselves in good circumstances that they had to send their children where the children of poorer persons were taught. At present I believe that all send their children and are glad to have them taught whether they belong to the more advanced, or to the poorer classes.

Mr. J. C. BECKET—I presume, Sir, we are agreed that the design of the Sabbath school is to raise up a generation to serve God; but how is this to be best accomplished, and who are to teach? No one can teach but pious men and women, and in my opinion the work could be best carried on by small companies dispersed over the city. There should be more schools and fewer persons in them. I have been surprised to find so many children and youth of nominal Protestant parents who are not in the Sabbath school; I have learned from recent statistics that there are more than 2000 children and youth, from five to twenty years, who neither attend Bible class nor Sabbath School. If we were more deeply impressed with the importance of Sabbath schools, and more fully realizing the fact that we deal with the mind at the time when the impression made was most likely to be lasting, there would be more Sabbath schools; more persons engaged in them; and more good done.