

in the presence of Dr. Arnold it was impossible to do a mean action, or even think a wrong thought. You know how they say of Salisbury Cathedral that it is impossible to think an impure thought in its shadow; something of the beauty and symmetry of the thing in stone seems to impress the beholder. And now in a lesser measure, in humbler spheres, every one of us is impressing our nature upon those who come within the influence of our life; and, Sabbath School teacher, this is the permanent element in your teaching. Yesterday you had a lesson in the Old Testament, to-day you have one in the New, and to-morrow you will have the gospel message; another day you have a character study, but the permanent element of the lesson, that which you are teaching all the time, that which no Sabbath passes by without your leaving behind you the permanent element of your teaching, is your own character—(hear, hear)—*your own personality*. You never leave your class without leaving behind you in the lives of the boys and girls something of yourself. I have mentioned this as a fact in all relations of life; I mention it as a WARNING fact. I need not dwell on that, I have already hinted at it, the awful thought that my personality may prove a hindrance to the Word of God finding an entrance into the lives of those I teach, that I, instead of being a help by my character to the Spirit of God, instead of being an open channel through which the message may flow to the hearts of those whom I would reach, may prove a hindrance, just as Gehazi stood there keeping back almighty power from the dead body that was before him; that because I am cherishing sin, because I may be living an inconsistent life, because I do not enter in spirit into the message which I bring, because it is a form of words only, I stand as a hindrance. I say I mention it as a warning fact. Oh, my teacher friends, let it be your prayer, and let it be mine, whether we go to speak to the two's or three's or to the multitudes, let it be our prayer, the prayer that goes up from hearts that realize something of the responsibility of being messengers from God, that little as we can assist, little as by our lives we can help to make the Word tell, yet we may at least not be stumblingblocks and hindrances in the way of the truth that comes to the hearts of those committed to our care.

If it is a warning fact, I mention it also as an ENCOURAGING fact. How often you have gone forth to your classes feeling your unfitness; how often you have regretted, perhaps, the neglect of early education; how often you have felt how wholly unworthy and unfitted you are to carry that blessed message to the hearts of the boys and girls in your class, and you have gone with hesitating steps, saying: "Oh, this work is too great for me, I am not sufficient for it; I have not the learning, I have not the culture, I have not the knowledge of the Word of God and the knowledge of human character and human nature; I have never been trained in the methods of teaching, and I seem wholly unfit for this work!" If you are a true teacher you