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This work should be well done. The Church and all who engage in her Sabbath Schools should comprehend the true nature and agencies of religious instruction. There should be thorough organization, wise division and regulation of work, and skilful, patient and loving co-operation.

The Assembly of our Church which met in Toronto in 1889, recognizing this, instructed its Sabbath School Committee to prepare a hand-book that might further these ends. It is to be brief, and therefore suggestive rather than exhaustive. The discussion of reasons and principles must of necessity be excluded almost entirely. But for those who desire to make fuller study of the questions involved, a list of authors that may be consulted will be found appended.

It may be well to state further, that the instructions of the Assembly seemed to limit the duty of the Committee to preparing hints on the methods and principles of Sabbath School management and instruction—to the outward and mechanical rather than to the moral and spiritual aspect of the work, towards the furtherance of which they are only instruments, and in true importance always subordinate. It seemed, therefore, no part of the work of the Committee to give prominence to the doctrines of human depravity, redemption through Christ, conversion, the personality and work of the Holy Spirit, etc., etc. The truth and importance of these are rather taken for granted in treating of agencies which are, when wisely employed, to help in making the teaching of these vital doctrines more thorough and efficacious.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

What it is.—Its design.—Should exist in every congregation.—How workers are called and improved in efficiency.—Objections answered.

The Sabbath School is a department of the Church, and should be fully under her control. Its design is to co-operate with the godly nurture of the family, and to train in the knowledge and service of God. Its organization, methods and work should be suited to the needs and capacities of those who come under its influence, and to the claims of the Church upon them.

No congregation can be regarded as doing its full duty to its members, especially the children, if it has not a school for their instruction in divine truth, and their training in the service to which all disciples are called. It is, therefore, an instruction of the Assembly to its ministers and missionaries that they use all diligence to organize, at the earliest date possible, a school at every needy centre.

Wherever there are people to be taught, it is clear that the Lord expects his children residing among them to undertake their instruction even though the service they can render is far from perfect. He gives more grace while we are using the grace He has given. Strength comes through use. The idle arm does not increase in strength. God gives a little love, a little strength, a little skill, that in his blessed service the little love may become more love, the little strength more strength, and the little skill greater skill. In God's strength let every child of His do the work laid to his hand, and greater things than these shall he do.

But there are means by which untrained faculties may be improved, and by which yearnings after greater skill and power may be gratified:—

1. If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God . . . and it shall be given him. Ever seek from Him.
2. Study the Word. It is the Sword of the Spirit.
3. Let there be regular meetings for prayer, study, and conference.
4. If no one trained and experienced in such work can be found in the neighbourhood to take the lead, then procure books and periodicals of a reliable and suitable character, and study them; and little by little light and strength and blessing will come.

If in new and remote parts of our land workers are unable to provide supplies really necessary, let their circumstances be made known to the convener of their Presbytery's Sabbath School Committee, and no doubt schools in older and better-off neighbourhoods would out of their abundance gladly respond.

Nor is it necessary that one should be a person of leisure or learning to be developed into a skilful worker. God's people are for the most part struggling in daily adversity and toil, but that is even a reason for finding snatches of time for the study of God's Word and for effort in his service, to sweeten toil, lighten care, and bring heaven and its happiness down to earth and its distractions.

ORGANIZATION.

Defined.—Constitution necessary.—It should define ends, means, and agents to reach its ends.—

S. S. Association.—Its members and duties.—Subordinate to Session.—Officers.—Superintendent, etc.—Outline Constitution appended.

When a number of persons agree to work together under certain regulations for accomplishing certain purposes, they are said to organize, or form an organization.

When forming a Sabbath School it is necessary to agree upon a constitution which shall define clearly the ends to be reached, and the means to be employed for securing them.

In this the officers to be appointed should be indicated and their duties clearly defined. It should also outline the grading, classification, work, methods and means of efficiency in each department.

To avoid misunderstandings and irregularities, the constitution should be written out or printed, and be brought frequently and fully before the Sabbath School Association.