

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



OUR  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
MISSION UNION



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**Robert Raikes, the Founder of Sunday Schools.**

**R**OBERT RAIKES was born September 14, 1735, a hundred and fifty years ago, in Palace-yard, Gloucester, just beneath the shadow of the cathedral. His house is still standing.

Robert Raikes was a thorough Christian. He was called "The father of the poor," even before he was connected with the Sunday School movement. Those for whom he more especially cared were the prisoners in the Gloucester gaol. Among them he was daily to be found—at times gently re-proving, but more often entreating the fallen to reform. One result of his visits to the prisoners was to discover that children neglected grew up to be criminals, and hence looking round upon

the young of his own city, he asked himself, what can I do to save them? In a most unexpected way Providence showed him a way in which he might benefit them.

One morning business led him to a very degraded part of Gloucester. His object was to hire a gardener. The gardener was from home. But while Raikes was speaking to the man's wife, a group of noisy, wretchedly ragged boys, playing in the streets, disturbed and tried to annoy him. Their great misery and idleness grieved him much, and he inquired whether they belonged to that part of the town.

"Ah, sir," said the woman, "if you could only step down here of a Sunday, you would be shocked indeed; for then the street is filled with these wretches, who have nothing to do on that day, but spend their time in noise and riot."

