

Large numbers of them are in Sunday-schools, and, alas, large numbers are not. If diamonds are sought on account of their value, what a motive to seek the salvation of souls is supplied by their worth! Who can tell their worth? Can it be computed by the science of numbers? No, no. The problem of Jesus remains unsolved, and will ever defy solution: "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" How wide the supposition! A man is not supposed to gain all the diamonds of the earth, and all the pearls of the ocean, but to gain the whole world. "This immense acquisition, could it be made, would have no appreciable influence in neutralizing the loss of the soul. The gain would be infinitely paltry, and the loss irreparably ruinous.

As literal diamonds are found in a rough state, and need much grinding and polishing to elicit their brilliancy and beauty, so the spiritual diamonds to which I refer are found incrustated with ignorance and covered up in moral rubbish. But let Christian workers know that, with the blessing of the Lord, the precious gems may be gathered out of the rubbish of sin, and that the incrustations of ignorance may be broken. These rough diamonds may be subjected to the regenerating and sanctifying polish of the Holy Spirit. If so, they will shine as bright jewels in the Mediator's diadem through everlasting ages. They will sparkle with sun-like glory, and the glory will encircle the head that wore the thorny crown. Who would not instrumentally insert a gem in the brightest diadem the universe will ever see!

Ministers of God, Christian parents, Sunday-school workers, go in search for spiritual diamonds. Labor for the salvation of souls. Consider the feeble efforts you have hitherto made as rebuked by the enterprise, activity and toil of those who search for physical diamonds; and resolve to labor till you die, that souls for whom Jesus shed his blood may be recovered from the ruins of the fall, and raised to the realms of glory in heaven. While you labor, listen to these words: "FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD."

Stop that Gap!

A SHEPHERD finds little difficulty in directing his flock so long as the road is straight and the fences on either hand are in good condition. But when some careless farmer has left a gate open, or a portion of fence is broken down, how lustily you hear him cry to his helpers, "Stop that gap!" The journey which lies before our youth, whose interests and safety it is our duty to consider, is not always defined with barriers preventing them from going astray.

Yesterday, in company with a friend, I drove through one of the most beautiful rural districts in Ontario. Not on a gravel road which makes everything clatter by the rattling of the wheels over the stones; but nature's own provision, a good substantial loam, had furnished us, for this season of the year, one of the most pleasant roads. We were within a distance of four or five miles from one of the most flourishing towns of the Dominion. Nature has done much for the residents of this section; the soil is productive and beautifully diversified with hill and dale, while the climate is well adapted to the cultivation of serials and fruit. These attractions have drawn together a class of industrious and thrifty citizens, who have improved their estates and provided themselves with costly and very comfortable homes. The dwellings are mostly red brick or white painted frame; the outbuildings are in keeping with the houses; and in almost every instance you notice fine ornamental trees, and a thrifty garden and orchard. Let us visit one of these homes; the house contains every modern comfort, and traces of refinement and culture are seen on every hand. The library contains a plentiful supply of good books and current literature; the porch has a number of healthy house plants, many of which are in full bloom; the parlor is supplied with excellent furniture and a rosewood melodeon, which is played by two or three performers, members of the family. In the garden the strawberries are over; but raspberries, Canadian black cap, and English white, are in season; and cherries, both common and English, are fully ripe;