

Such a child has entered the world hampered—all his surroundings tend downwards. Physically, mentally, morally, spiritually he is handicapped.

Such is one extreme of our S. S. population. (God grant that they be few in such unhappy circumstances.) The other extreme is also represented. Side by side with the unfortunate son of the alley way and the hovel, there is the child of the sunlit, comfortable home. To this latter every form of culture has been offered; music, painting, literature, games of every description have been taxed to their utmost to give him joy. In the midst of comfort and luxury he has lived a king. The cultivating goddess of love has smiled over his infant cradle and followed him all through life. Every wish is gratified, every need provided for, every thought and anxiety is extended to his welfare. Heaven has surrounded him in infancy.

These too are types—to these the Gospel message is to be brought. These children so different in their ideas are to be taught the unsearchable riches of Jesus. To one the stories of heaven are like fairy tales—too good to be true, too bright to have reality: to the other they are matters of no great marvel for his own nursery is a miniature heaven. And yet each has the same urgent need of the Gospel—in each must there be awakened a love of God.

Between these two extremes there is another class—having neither poverty nor richness—Unsullied by the darkness of the one, unhardened by the glamour of the other. Here likewise is the “seed of the kingdom” to be sown that it may bear fruit unto life eternal.

From this general survey, we have brought before us two important truths: viz.

1. The great responsibility of teaching. The teacher is taking the message of Salvation to souls that are in dire need of such enlightenment, and taking it at an impressionable age. Under God, that instruction is for the the Eternal destiny of the one taught. Hence the teacher, for the short hour at his disposal, is moulding character, shaping choice, drawing out decision. He is as it were seeking to win trophies to be placed at the feet of the King of Kings.