

must go. Some have grown too old to receive any fresh impressions; they have been impressed so often that they have been burned over, and are as hard and impressionless as the sands of Sahara; but we have some hope with the fresh, young minds, with the imaginations and the hearts of the children in the Sabbath School. Give them the right point of view, that everything turns to God, and God has to do with everything—not merely with the Church and Sabbath School, but with the lessons in the Public School, and with the boy or girl who cheats or who copies. Now, who are responsible for this religious instruction? Who are responsible for taking the young in their innocence and ignorance, or in their badness and wickedness, and giving them the right conception of man's relationship to God? Primarily, secondarily, and all the time the home—the obligations of the home make the parent responsible for this thing. We need, with all our Sabbath School organization, with all our maps and plans, with all our helps and hindrances, to lay the emphasis very heavily upon the parents, upon the home, for the home is even losing its hold. Some men have not much home. Some professional and business men have so much to do with clients and cases, with stocks and what-not, that morning, noon and night they are at the office, and they come home for meals sometimes, and generally sleep at home. They lose their sense of parental responsibility, their sense of being responsible for their children's conception of God. As teachers, we must never allow the parents to think that we put ourselves in their places, that we are their substitutes. You only supplement their service; you only try to aid, and to add something to what they have done; but the first responsibility is upon the parent for the child's conception of God and of his relation to God. A home is the unit of society, but is not society. Families are organized into society, and therefore society, as an organization, has responsibility in the case; and by the obligations of society the Public School is responsible for the religious education of the young; and if I were addressing Public School teachers, I would take the occasion to emphasize very strongly their responsibility in the case, for they have the making of citizens in their hands. So far as society is concerned, so far as families are organized into society, the responsibility rests upon the Public Schools for giving the children the sense of God. Settle it. Do it as you please. Do it by reading the Scripture selections. Do it in whatever way you please, but let it be done; and the important thing is not so much the reading of the Scriptures—the most important thing is the personality of the teacher. Unless there is a sense of God permeating the school-room in all the classes, in all the work, there is no religious instruction being done. But families are organized in the Church, and there is an obligation in the Church in the matter; and so far as the obligation of the Church is concerned, the responsibility rests to a very large degree—I will not say altogether—upon the Sabbath School. That is the institu-