

in seeing young disciples taking Christian ground, quickly and firmly resolved to witness for God and righteousness.

But there is one difficulty connected with Bible Classes to which the Committee would call the attention of the Church—one noted by several Ministers in their returns, namely the difficulty of keeping hold of the young after they reach a certain age—say 14 or 15—especially boys. About that age they begin to leave, think lightly of the class, and in spite of all that they have heard and learned for years many of them enter upon evil courses and grow up to manhood, even to old age, without taking the first step in the new life. The difficulty in question is very well expressed in one of these sheets. It is the statement of one well qualified to speak on the subject.

"The younger children," he says, "attend the Sabbath School very generally; indeed, when the distance does not prevent them, there are scarcely any who do not attend. The chief difficulty is with those who think themselves too old to attend, and yet do not feel themselves prepared to become communicants. I know no branch of work more important or more difficult than to reach these, nor any in which I feel, that in proportion to what I wish, I have been so defective. Circumstances connected with my Church building have prevented me from carrying on my Bible Classes this year, and, therefore, I have little information to give and less of practical suggestion to impart in the matter, but the difficulty stated I feel to be very great."

The most cheering feature perhaps which these returns present is the Sabbath School work—the fact that so few of the children of the Church are growing up in ignorance of divine things—that nearly all avail themselves of the instruction which the Church offers, and are becoming familiar with those great doctrines which through faith are able to make them wise unto salvation. In the majority of cases the Minister himself is the Superintendent, and in some instances he teaches a class, and meets with the teachers once a week for the purpose of prayer and studying the lesson for the coming Sabbath.

The main complaint which has reached the Committee in regard to Sabbath Schools is the lack of properly qualified teachers—the fact that many of them that are employed are mere boys and girls, having but little patience—little experience, and are altogether destitute of the higher qualities of an instructor of youth. This is indeed a great evil, and when it is borne in mind that the instruction of the Sabbath School is all the instruction that many children will ever receive in divine things—that many of them have no one to care for their souls but the teacher—that everything is against them in the street, and everything against them at home—that they never hear a prayer there, except it be a curse, and never hear God's name mentioned but in wrath, it will be manifest that everything should be done that can be done in the way of giving them—giving all—the best instruction possible, more especially that the best teachers that can be procured be employed—teachers whose years, position, piety and experience in divine things may be expected to give a higher tone to the work of the School. The only other suggestion which the Committee have to offer in this connection is that whenever it is practical the Minister himself superintend the School.

*Question V.* [see Q.] A few of the returns to this question are of the most cheering description, revealing much life and much of the presence of the Master; but for the most part they are of a very painful kind. With the exception of 11 all speak of great difficulty in getting willing and intelligent persons to discharge the duties stated, and the proportion of the people doing any kind of Church work is noticed only