

old to be made feel their ignorance, their darkness, their need of instruction, while it is delightful to be conscious of being the instrument of dispelling this darkness. Besides, the faithful teacher in preparing for his class work, and in doing it, adds greatly to his own stores of knowledge and experience. He learns to appreciate and believe more firmly the wholesome lessons he delivers to others. Nothing so surely gives one the complete mastery of any subject as to be obliged to make it clear, intelligible and impressive to dull pupils. And the more dull and wayward they are and the more unfavorable the environment under which the task is accomplished, the greater the merit and reward of the teacher, because to achieve success under such conditions requires patience, prayer, sanctified skill, tact and indomitable perseverance.

3. The teacher's reward partly consists in the effects of his work upon the Church. Here we need not go aside to define the Church or to wrangle over the meaning of the term with any denomination or ambitious "Diotrephes who loveth to have the pre-eminence." It is pretty generally conceded that as the Church exists on earth as a visible body she is composed of all who profess the true religion together with their children. And it is chiefly among children that her greatest and most hopeful work is being done. Romanists are alive to this fact, and act accordingly. They do not give prominence to Sunday Schools as organized by Protestants, but they lay out their strength among the young from house to house, and inculcate their religious views in day schools. They carefully prepare children for early public enrolment in the Church at their first Communion. They make ample provision, too, for housing and training the waifs of society. In these respects Protestants might well take lessons from them.

We are not sufficiently awake to the fact that character at a mature age becomes fixed, crystallized, permanent in its attributes. But it is otherwise with the young. Their natures are plastic, easily moulded, and hence it is among them, in the household and the Sunday School, that we should look and work with buoyant hope for the transition of multitudes from death unto life, from darkness to light, and from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God.

It is therefore no exaggeration to say that

those who toil earnestly in this large field—fathers, mothers, elders, ministers and consecrated, energetic Sunday School teachers, do more than any others for the real permanent growth of the Kingdom of God among men. Let us not doubt that they have their reward. Their "praise is in the gospel throughout all the Churches." (2 Cor. 8: 18.)

4. The teacher's reward appears in the effects of his work on the world. This is a larger arena than that of the visible Church. For some time after Sunday Schools were instituted they continued to be exclusively missionary, and men and women were sometimes hired to conduct them. They were intended only for neglected children, chiefly of the poor. This class is still kept in view, but the scope of the work has been gradually enlarged, and now embraces all classes.

All honor, however, to those who prefer to act in the line of the original idea, and heroically plunge into the darkest and vilest slums of the world to "rescue the perishing." This requires greater faith and self-denial, higher qualifications in every way, than are needed to sit and teach well-dressed, well-behaved children under æsthetic ecclesiastical conditions, amounting to Sabbath-day luxury. Those who toil in the slum-fields are the real heroes of the Church, and they have their reward. Their obscure, unostentatious, unadvertised services purify the lower strata of society, where poverty, moral pollution, crime and the devil and his servants combine to murder souls.

The Saviour said to His true followers, "Ye are the salt of the earth; ye are the light of the world." What greater joy or reward can any one desire than to be consciously the instrument of qualifying others to exert this blessed, purifying and enlightening influence? What a glorious mission on which to set out thousands and tens of thousands of the young of our land—to be the salt and the light of society.

5. Finally, and comprehensively, the teacher's reward is, as we have seen, enjoyed in this life and it will be continued in eternity. He now experiences unutterable satisfaction in witnessing the outcome of his labors in Christ. This was the case with Paul of Tarsus, that great teacher of Jews and Gentiles, when, from the prison in Rome he wrote to his Philippian students, "Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and