

and inspiring and sustaining literature in all departments of missionary enterprise, are as important constituents of strength and incentives of action and advance as under the Holy Spirit and the word of Divine truth can be brought to bear upon the Church in her efforts to save the world.

Yes, the mightily energized, well-conducted School of Bible and Missions is all right; now, how does it work out? Does it accomplish its purpose? Is it popular? Is it well attended? Do the people get out of it what the promoters put into it? With all this the place, the time, the local provisions and arrangements, the general management have much to do. Some brethren have thought that there is not enough stability, continuity, perpetuity about the schools as held; that results are lost because the course of study is not followed up, systematized and sealed by examination and diploma, and have arranged accordingly, and are pressing on their work with satisfaction and advantage. Yet, no doubt, the less systematic work has aroused many to greatly improved knowledge and research, and to increased activity in Christian service, and so is worth prosecuting. Some schools have been more prosperous in towns and cities during the business season, and some in the woods and by the waters during the vacation. Anyway they must be held in places where the people are, or to which they may be easily drawn. The heated term in the city, when the majority of those that would attend are in the groves or at the lake or sea-side, has not secured cheering or rewarding returns. There must be an attendance to compensate teachers who give their time and effort gratuitously to so important and beneficial instruction.

Again, it is not at all amiss, nor is it considered intrusive, to afford to many attendants at summer resorts so profitable an occupation of the mind, and so desirable an employment of at least a part of the time. There are seasons and occasions when they can be held to the greatest advantage in towns and cities, there are other seasons when the rural district and the mountain or river or sea resort is decidedly preferable. Discretion must control here as well as elsewhere. It has been found that there is danger of attempting too much, of crowding in too many schools for the constituency. Weakness and discouragement and much harm and loss are so brought upon a good cause, and a valuable agency may be disparaged or discontinued from no fault of its own. What would seem to be required is something of a common direction for all, that there may be wise distribution of the schools and effective administration and work in every school. Possibly in no other way can the interest be maintained or the desired benefits secured. When it is seen what gatherings of this character accomplish for missionaries on the foreign fields in their summer resort to the mountains, their social intercourse, their Biblical study, their interchange of experience in plans and methods; when we know, closer at home, what Biblical and training-schools are doing for ministers, evangelists, Sunday-school teachers, deaconesses and all Christian workers, we must feel and be convinced that the consecrated socialism of the Christian system has in it, under God, elements of power that have been overlooked, and energies and agencies not yet fully developed.