

impress an unwonted earnestness on the countenance. And how much has there been at work within, of which I knew nothing. Here, the resolve has almost been formed, "I will be a Christian;" and there, a new temptation of the Evil One has proved but too successful in calling forth the response, "Not yet." Some of my class, in spite of all obstacles, decided for God last year. For them, and for me because of them, it was a happy year, for which I thank God, and take courage. Some have left my class, and have gone out into the "wide, wide world;" others have come in, and are giving me a mingling of anxiety and hope. Some now seem to be very thoughtful, and very deeply impressed. There are others whom nothing seems to move. They go and come, they come and go, as far as I see, just the same as ever. And yet they are not the same. They cannot be. Not one of the class has been stationary, in a spiritual sense, for a single day. All of them are moving on heavenward or hellward! Great God, the thought almost overpowers me! Then, too, I have been moving on. My work has been according to my own spiritual state. *It has never risen above myself.* And now, for good or ill, the year's work is finished. It cannot be recalled. It is "gone before me." It will be reproduced at the morning of the resurrection. Surely it behoves me at this point of time to examine myself. Have I taught Christ fully, so that it is entirely the fault of my class if they do not clearly understand the Gospel? Has my manner in the class been as kind, as gentle, as earnest, as it ought to have been? Has there been so much spirituality that all my scholars could tell that I "had been with Jesus?" Have I spoken privately to every one, and warned them to flee from the wrath to come? Have I pleaded as if I could be willing to die, if it would but lead them to turn to Jesus? Have I prayed with them, and for them, alone, and for each severally? Have I lived near to God myself? Has my example been such as to add new force to the lesson of the week? Have I been to each of my class the Friend, Helper, and Guide, as well as the Teacher? In a word, Have I been all that a teacher

should be? These questions probe me. I must confess I have fallen short, yea, very far short of what I should have been. Perhaps I have not by any external impropriety brought positive disgrace upon the holy Name I teach; but even if that be so, there has been sad deficiency in the spirit and power of my work. The shortcomings appal me more than the transgressions! I have *not* been earnest enough. I have *not* been faithful enough. I have *not* been prayerful enough. And when I read our Saviour's words, that the burden of His complaint at the last day will be, "*Ye did it not*"—oh, how seriously defective must my life work appear to His all-seeing eye! And yet God knows I love the work. It is my heart's joy. While, therefore, I look up to Him, that out of the aboundings of His grace He may cancel all my guilt, I desire now to re-offer myself to Him, and to renew my vows to Him. But above all, must the aim be more directly and more intensely towards the conversion of my scholars. The plenteous Baptism of the Holy Ghost is what I and they most need! This will be an "armour of light." Filled with the Spirit, they will be well shielded against the mummery of Ritualism on the one hand, and against the chills of the doubter on the other. This, then, must be my aim for this year. *To secure the conversion of every scholar in the class.* With this in view I will, by God's help, work harder than I have ever done. I will prepare my lessons more thoroughly than ever; I will visit the houses of the scholars more, and seek to win the parents for God. I will pray more. I will be more to my scholars than I have been in times past. I will look out for conversions in my class, and try to foster each impression, and to nurture every right and kindly feeling in them. Already I think I see a cloud in the sky, though as yet "no bigger than a man's hand." Oh, for more faith in God! Great God! I now throw myself penitently and prayerfully upon Thee! In Christ I would come and plead with Thee. Pardon the defects and sins of my work. Accept and bless what has been right. Now re-inspire me, at this opening year, with the Holy Ghost and with power. Bless my class. Bring them