

will be immense, incalculable. The law of the land now provides that a Common School Education shall be free to all. The means of learning to read and write and count are now, or will soon be, within the reach of our poorest children. This is right. The State is doing a good work where it promotes a sound and useful education.—But what is the *Church* doing? What, especially, is *our Church* doing? It is emphatically the duty of the Church to educate her children for the Kingdom of Heaven.—The training which, by the grace of God, will help to make them useful members of the Kingdom of Christ on earth is equally adapted to prepare them for the duties and the joys of Heaven.

What of our SABBATH SCHOOLS? Their object is to bring souls—the souls of children—to Christ. Are our Schools accomplishing their mission? Too often the Sabbath School is a place for repeating ill-learned tasks—for much misbehaviour on the part of children and inefficiency and lack of discretion on the part of teachers. We, teachers, are not loving enough; not earnest, simple, faithful enough; not sufficiently given to prayer with and for our children. If ever a revival was needed, it is needed in our Sabbath Schools. Our attendance is not large enough. Our teachers are too few. Many who are eminently qualified for the work of teaching stand aloof from our Schools from indolence or carelessness, or a nervous distrust of their own qualifications. MINISTERS can do much in the way of organizing Sabbath Schools. They can pray for them. They can press their claims on the attention of the people. They can occasionally visit them. But it is too much to expect of the Minister to be Superintendent of the Sabbath School. In many cases it is impossible for him to act in this capacity without sacrificing health, and overtaxing his energies. But faithful ministers never forget that they are commanded to preach the Gospel to *Children* as well as to adults. In the family, in the Sabbath School, in the ordinary services of the Church, the “lamb of the flock” are ever to be remembered, tended tenderly, fed regularly and faithfully.

But the grave responsibilities of Sabbath

School teachers, of Ministers and Elders, do not in any measure lighten the responsibilities of PARENTS. If your children are lost to society, lost to the church, lost to God, of your cruel hands shall their blood be required. Primarily and peculiarly is it your duty to train them for God. Their usefulness in the present life and their happiness in the future can be secured, under God, by you. Take heed then that you fulfill your baptismal vows. The State, the Church, the great Head of the Church, the immortal souls of the children themselves, have claims upon you the importance of which cannot be exaggerated.

Heaven itself cannot present a lovelier spectacle than when family circles, broken here by death, are reunited in the everlasting sunshine of Christ's presence—not one missing: father and mother and brothers and sisters together again forever! What parent would not prize such a blessed consummation! It were a worthy object of holy ambition. To gain this object we must all believe in the Lord Jesus and learn to love Him. By bringing our families, our Sabbath School Classes, our congregations to CHRIST, we put them on the sure and safe way to Heaven.

The lessons we teach, the books we give to the children, the sermons we preach, the discipline we exercise in our families, must contribute to the one great end of making our Children the children of God. For this let us send them to Sabbath School; let us go with them in private to the Throne of Grace. This end gained we gain everything: to fall short of this is to suffer a loss that is irreparable, unutterable, infinite.

The greatest heresy is want of love, and nowhere are the effects of this heresy so disastrous as in our dealings with children.—Imitating Christ let us take them up in our arms, cherish them in our hearts, plead and pray for them as for our own souls.

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### MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY.

HE who has told us that we should always pray, has left us an example that we should follow in his steps. Jesus prayed without ceasing; do we not need the strength and