

it is worth " as a pioneer force in the newer districts. How these special servants of the Church shall be supported, how many of them there shall be, and what their precise duties, are points on which the Assembly will doubtless come to agreement. We believe that this new and necessary form of effort will appeal very strongly to the teachers and scholars of our Sabbath Schools.

An Open Letter

To a Teacher Who Has Decided to "Give Up."

MY DEAR —,

Yes, I think you should certainly "give up"! You tell me a tale which is sad in one sense, and delightful to read in another—though perhaps you will think this last remark rather unfeeling. You say that your heart is saddened by the lack of direct results from your teaching. You prepare your lessons faithfully; you succeed in winning not only the attention but the affection of your boys; you do not neglect to seek that gracious help and guidance without which all religious work must be in vain; and yet you say that there are no results!

Now, this is sad to hear, but at the same time, as I have said, there is a sense in which it makes pleasant reading. For it shows that you are in earnest, and are really concerned for the highest good of your boys. Now, that fact in itself disproves your assertion that no results follow!

I believe you dabble a little in science, do you not? Well, if so, you will know that a cause is always followed by a result. There is no such thing as the ultimate extinction or loss of any force in the physical world. It always effects something. It may produce light, heat, electricity, or motion. It may overcome the force of gravity by raising a weight. But whatever it may be, the output of force always effects *something*.

Now, the same law holds good in the spiritual world. Whenever genuine spiritual power is put forth, something results from it. God's word shall not return to Him void, but it shall accomplish that which He pleases. There is no such word as "failure" in the vocabulary of heaven. You will remember

how it was prophesied of our Lord that "He shall not fail nor be discouraged."

So you see that when you say that your earnest and prayerful work is all in vain, you are uttering a sort of heresy against the omnipotence of God. Grasp what this involves, and you won't talk about failure.

But you complain, "I don't see any results." Well, why should you? The farmer sows his seed, but he never worries because he does not immediately see any growth. You have been a teacher, I understand, exactly ten months, and that is not such a very long time, is it? When you have been at the work ten years you will be much more patient. Don't you think that there was a little impatience flowing out of your pen when you wrote that letter to me? It bore evident signs of haste, and I notice that you dug your pen right through the paper more than once.

After all, this hankering for visible results is not altogether a creditable business. It took more than ten months to teach you to read decently, and yet you expect to transform the character of your boys in that short space of time.

But you say that the Holy Spirit is not limited to time. Quite so! Then don't try to hurry Him. The eternal patience of God waited for man's salvation, and surely you have no right to complain if you also have to wait a while. The bread you have cast upon the waters you will find again "after many days."

After all, you must remember that sudden conversion is not the rule, but rather the exception, in the kingdom of God. Change of character—even though it may manifest itself suddenly—is usually the result of a process more or less long continued. That process is not always noticed, but it is none the less real. Don't you think it is now going on in the hearts of your boys? Why do they come to the class so regularly? Why do they behave so well? Why do they listen so attentively? Why do they submit to the very straight talks you give them? I presume that they are neither coerced nor bribed. Then how do you account for it?