

presence of others, but self-abasement in feeling ourselves lost sinners in our private communing with God, is a state of mind too much neglected. I have heard a girl of ten years of age repeat the first chapter of St. John's Gospel, perfectly, but on being questioned as to its meaning, she showed deplorable ignorance; she did not know that Jesus Christ was the Son of God; she knew nothing of Him as her Redeemer.

We agree with our correspondent that we are still far behind, generally speaking, in the science, so to speak, of the Sabbath School cause, but we were glad to find from the Report of the Agent of the Canada Sunday S. Union for last year, that great advances had been made in the work, and that the Sabbath Schools in the larger towns, throughout Canada, were efficiently conducted. No doubt were ministers of the Gospel to countenance the work of Sabbath-school instruction, as we think it their duty to do, it would wonderfully accelerate their advancement.

SKETCH OF THE IRISH SOCIETY.

No subject for many years past has occupied a more prominent place in the councils of our country, been the object of keener political debate, or the topic of greater wonder and disputation, than the state of Ireland. Government after government has sought to reduce her to peace and quiet; the strong arm of martial law has striven to break the spirit that would not bend. Generous and lenient treatment has been tried in turn, and what is the result? The country remains as unsettled and disorderly as ever. Year after year sinking deeper in wretchedness and misery. But there is one plan for the amelioration of Ireland that has been overlooked by the wise men of this world, and yet this plan alone contains within itself all the elements capable of counteracting the evils which have so long defied every effort. This is the Gospel plan, which sets side by side these precepts, "Fear God," "Honor the King," "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," "The truth shall make you free."

This is the basis upon which the Irish Society was founded: its standing motto is "search the Scriptures." It holds that Popery is the curse of Ireland, the Irish Bible its cure. This Society has for many years been

working in faith and prayer, sowing the seed beside all waters; and now, in not a few instances, it has begun, in the very midst of temporal destitution, to gather a spiritual harvest. The one object this Society has ever had in view, is to give the Bible to the people in their own language. It is well known the devoted attachment the Irish bear to their own tongue. The Irish, they say, gets into the heart, while the English goes no further than the head.

Then, there is one channel left open for the entrance of good, and of this the Irish Society have fully availed themselves. The work overtaken by this Society may be divided into two parts—the employment of Irish Readers and the support of Schools. The Irish Reader is one who thoroughly understands his native tongue, who takes his Bible in his hand and travels through the length and breadth of the land, turning into every cabin where they will receive him, and reading to all who will hear it, the story of peace. Often must he take his life in his hand and be content to lay it down for Christ's sake. Much vehement opposition does Satan raise to the word of God. Salary is not made an object; some teachers are employed at £5 per annum. They cannot, for so small a sum, give up the whole of their time to the cause; and when it can be done, the Society endeavor, by adding a little, to redeem them of their time for the sacred work. One or two instances, out of very many, may be given to show what manner of men these Irish Readers are: Michael McDaniel labored first in King's County, afterwards in Dublin. He possessed a peculiar simplicity of character, joined with the most unflinching boldness in the cause of truth. During his illness, which was short, he was visited by several friends. One asked him had he peace. "Surely," said he, "I long ago laid my burden on One well able to bear it; my name was written before the foundation of the world in the Lamb's book of life." He was asked would he like to see a Priest? He answered, "I want no Priest, Christ is my great High Priest." A few hours before his death a Roman Catholic said to him, "I hope you will be saved." "All that," said he, "was done for me by my Saviour before I was born. If I had to put my hand to the work it would soon be undone. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." In a few minutes after this he fell asleep in Jesus. Many Romanists attended his funeral.

(To be Continued.)