

into His hands, that He was come from God, and went to God, and that loving service is the greatest thing in the world. Think of the broad foundation upon which such a sense of greatness rested! Having the Father's full confidence; with the shaping of history in His hands; divine in origin and destiny. Can a person conscious of these things wait upon the silly judgments of an over nice propriety?

To-day in the Sabbath School, the church and the world the service of life is waiting to be done, and it is a lowly service. There is the teaching of children, sometimes stupid and dirty; the reclaiming of the outcast, always rough and uncouth; the visiting of the slums with their poverty and nakedness. Can our dignity stoop? Yes, the true greatness thinks not of the incidental unpleasantness of the service, but of God's approval, of the untold results, of the origin and destiny of human life, and of the master's example. This is heaven-born greatness, and can no more be defiled by the menial task, than the resplendent rainbow can be stained by the particles of dust that float in the wind.

Truro, N.S.

Sunday School Problems

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VI. OBTAINING DECISION

By the term "decision" in this connection, we mean, of course, a conscious assumption of the religious attitude,—the attitude which involves personal acceptance of the sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin, the teaching of Christ as a rule of life, and the example of Christ as a pattern of conduct. Such a decision may be sudden and spectacular in character and accompanied by strong emotion, or it may be simply the final step on a road which the individual has been traveling for a long while without knowing fully whither his steps were tending. Light may come to one in the lightning flash or in the slow and almost imperceptible approach of the dawn.

Decision is an act, and one never acts without a motive. Motives have their rise in the

inner life of idea and feeling. This inner life is a matter of growth. The child gathers ideas from his earliest infancy. His feelings arise, partly, from his instinctive nature and partly, from his surroundings, since a large part of one's emotional life is always caught from one's environment.

It is the part of the Sunday School to minister to the growth of the inner life of idea and feeling and sentiment. It is also the part of the Sunday School to develop an outer life of habit which, when the time for religious self-consciousness arrives, may expand naturally into conduct which is intelligently religious in its character.

One great weakness in Sunday School work has been a failure to recognize, that the assumption of the religious attitude or the "acceptance of Christ," as it is sometimes called, is for very many children, especially those who have been properly cared for in their religious nurture, a short and an easy step. In fact, it frequently takes place without either parent or teacher being aware of the fact.

The value of a definite appeal for decision, such as is made in Decision Day exercises, comes from the fact that this appeal (if one may borrow, for a moment, from the language of science) furnishes the element of shock which brings to the point of crystallization that which has long been held in solution. The child may have long been a Christian so far as habit, belief and attitude are concerned; now, through participating in a formal exercise, he becomes consciously one.

There is always one danger to be guarded against in dealing with children. It is an easy thing to exploit their emotional natures,—as easy as it is unwise and cruel. The suggestion that decision is the natural thing, that when we know and feel and believe, it is our duty to act accordingly,—such a suggestion, sympathetically made by one in whom the pupil has confidence, should be sufficient. And if it is not sufficient, then the remedy is not in perfunctory appeal but rather in further and better teaching of the scriptures.

"Wait on Me"

"An incident of recent date, apparently trivial in character," writes one of our home