

every respect like any other day. Dr. Robertson gave the young man a copy of Dr. Gregg's little book of prayers for family use, and asked him to invite the young men to meet together on the Sabbath and read these prayers. At first the young man refused, stating that he was not himself a professing Christian, but at last Dr. Robertson secured the promise that he would read the prayers. About a year afterwards he met this young man again, who assured him that, not only had he succeeded in gathering the young men together on the Sabbath, but it was not long before they became deeply interested in their own personal salvation; and he added, "I am to-day a Christian as a result of these meetings." There are, no doubt, many districts where something similar to this might be accomplished.

Are we utilizing this agency as fully as it is possible for us to do? Even in the older parts of our country, where our Church has long had a firm hold, have we as many Sabbath Schools in existence as we ought to have? Is it not true that in many districts where there are large congregations spread over a considerable extent of country, where many of the people have to drive five or six miles to church on the Sabbath and where it is impossible for the children to attend the central Sabbath School, many of them are lost to our Church eventually because branch Sabbath Schools have not been established?

The parents send them to the nearest school, belonging to some other denomination, and as a result, they, in the end, leave the Presbyterian Church and become faithful members of that other denomination which made provision for their spiritual wants when children.

Not very long ago I was travelling through a densely-populated district in Ontario. The gentleman who was with me said, "I know this place and I know of no section of Ontario where the people are more godless and where the Sabbath is less observed than it is here." I asked the reason. He said, "These people, years ago, were connected with the Presbyterian church five miles distant. Their children were unable to

attend the Sabbath School, no provision was made for them, and they grew up out of touch with the religious life of the community." I trust there are very few districts in our Dominion where the same sad results have followed like neglect; but is it not true that in many parts of Ontario the religious life of the community would be materially fostered by the establishment of branch Sabbath Schools? This is done very generally, I understand, in the Maritime Provinces, and even in our cities we see the advantages of it. Cannot something be done to secure that such schools be established throughout our whole Church?

In the new districts of our country this is even more important than in the older sections. About eight years ago a young man was sent to teach school in a community not more than one hundred and fifty miles from Toronto. He found that the first settler had come into the district about twelve years before. When he went there, there were about twenty families in the settlement and he found that only for four Sabbaths during these twelve years had divine service been held in the district. They had no Sabbath School and the people were living in practical heathenism. He at once organized a school and after a few weeks held services. These services were very much appreciated by the people, and effected a marvellous change in the whole community.

In Manitoba, we are told, there are over 20,000 children who go to no Sabbath School. In the North West Territories the proportion is even greater and no doubt the same is true in the country districts of British Columbia. Can something not be done for these children? Will not our Church, which spends so liberally on its Home Mission Work, the establishing of congregations and the building of churches, not take measures also for the ingathering of all the children into Sabbath Schools?

How can this much-needed work be accomplished? In the older congregations the Session is the agency through which these branch schools are to be organized and fostered. But what about the newer parts of