

The Sunday-school Library.

WE abhor extremes. We protest against the wholesale denunciations of Sunday-school literature, and against the gradually growing disposition to shut up the library in the Sunday-school. If the Church will undertake to provide a good library of religious and secular reading for all classes of its people, from the oldest to the youngest, we shall present no objection to closing up the Sunday-school library; but until the Church does this we must look to the school for the provision of wholesome literature which may be read both on Sunday and on week-days. The tendency to supplant the library by weekly papers is also unwholesome. Thousands of our homes lack good libraries. The Sunday-school has always provided books for these homes. The service is as much needed to-day as ever, and the increase of weak, pernicious literature in the shape of pictorial and juvenile papers, boys' weeklies, girls and boys' magazines, young men's papers, Police Gazettes, Day's Doings, and a brood of corrupt and corrupting weeklies and monthlies besides, renders it absolutely necessary that the religious instructors of the youth of America shall place in their hands, under the auspices of the Church, good reading matter, both secular and religious. We plead for the re-opening of the closed Sunday-school libraries, and for the enlargement of those already accessible.

The Church should not merely take collections to aid in this, but an annual appropriation should be made to keep the library, as all circulating libraries are, or should be kept, constantly increasing, adding from week to week the new and best books which are published.

We are well aware that the cry of "trashy literature" will be raised wherever the Sunday-school library is discussed. No more unjust and silly outcry was ever heard against any institution. We claim that the literature furnished by the American Sunday-school Union, and the various Publishing Houses of the Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches, is, on the whole, strong, high-toned, and calcu-

lated to do good to our young people. As a general rule these houses subject every thing they publish for Sunday-schools to the scrutiny of careful and competent critics.

Children's Sunday.

To say that the Methodist Church is wiser in its generation than other churches is not to assert that it belongs to the children of this world while the other denominations are to be classed with the children of light. It is wiser in respect to its care for the children. Besides the special prominence it has taken in aggressive Sunday-school enterprise and instruction, it has a red-letter day in each year for the little ones, which it calls "Children's Sunday." It is almost always made to fall in June, when the air is full of all sweet scents and sweet sounds, when the sunshine is the brightest, and earth is robed in freshest green and adorned with fairest flowers. On this day the children are made to feel that they are something more than aggregations of units to add to the glory of the statistics of the church. Would that other denominations would take the hint, and give one day in the year entirely to the little ones. The children would be the better for it—and so would the churches. Perhaps they will be the more willing to do this when they learn that this thrifty mother takes up a collection on this occasion "to assist meritorious Sunday-school scholars in obtaining a more advanced education," and now has a fund for that purpose of over \$75,000. It is a rule in the Methodist church, we have heard said, that when there are two or three gathered together there shall a collection be taken up. In this instance it rather deepens the interest than takes away from it, because it gives purpose to the gathering.

—S. S. Teacher.

WHEN I met in class, I understood the preaching better; and getting an acquaintance with my own heart, and hearing the experience of God's people, I soon got acquainted with God himself.—*Adam Clarke.*