

They are necessary inherent qualities of the metal. The unit must be shaped and polished to fit and fill its appointed place. Neglect may produce reversion to type and man becomes a mere animal. Man's higher nature cries out in the "gang instinct" of generous youth.

Now is the appointed time. Mould the plastic clay. Strike while the iron is hot. A blow in boxing may excite the temper and blacken the eye, but the next enforces the sovereign virtue of self control in life's varying fortunes. Football may seem folly to the casual spectator, but the team work that enforces the suppression of self for the general weal vies with the multiplication table in fitting the youth for his destined, or predestined, place and power.

No boy can neglect his personal obligation to fit himself for the tremendous responsibilities of modern democracy. No one can with impunity imperil his group by isolating himself. Mr. Raymond Robins strikingly illustrates this by an incident in the gold rush to the Klondike. Six men, tied together at thirty-foot intervals, were crossing a mountain pass. Repeatedly the giant leader chafed at the slower pace of his mates. On

the second day he turned to them with an outburst of impatience. Again they headed goldwards. Suddenly the banked snow gave way and the giant leader disappeared into a deep crevice—saved only by his weaker companions who, throwing themselves backward, anchored the line until he recovered the trail. So in life even the strongest is bound in the bundle of life. Man separates himself from it or unfits himself for it only at the price of his highest and best.

The modern man, be he patriot or prophet, must be a man of his time and place. The ascetic may dwell apart and ponder, but the Messiah who would lead and serve must be a man among men. He must go down into the Galilee of the humble, into the Nazareth of the commonplace, into the Gethsemane of suffering, as well as into the school of the doctors, if he would lead up the hill of transfiguration. He will dine with publicans, cheer the wedding feast, attract fishermen, professional men and little children. Possessed of social graces, as well as the abundant grace of God, the Nazarene was the brother of all: "And he increased in knowledge and in stature, and in favor with God and man."

St. John, N.B.

Some Problems of the Small School

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I. THE ABSENT MINISTER

For many ministers in the country it is a practical impossibility, owing to the number of services, distance of driving and the hours at which his Schools are held, to attend the Sabbath School.

One of the worst results of this absence is the impression, which it tends to leave upon both young and old, that the School is not important. The congregational worship which the minister conducts is the essential thing; the School a more or less necessary encumbrance.

Another serious disadvantage is, that the minister, who should be the leader in this work and the best acquainted with it, is denied the opportunity of securing the adoption of methods which are up-to-date and helpful.

How can a minister counteract these evils? To begin with, he can show an intelligent sympathy with the work, and if he does this, all his people will learn to respect the School, and the teachers and officers will take fresh heart. After all, the people are fairly reasonable and do not expect the impossible from their minister; but one of the weights upon many a small School has been that faithful and capable workers have felt that their minister has had little interest in it.

When the minister meets teachers, scholars and parents on his pastoral rounds, a question about the School and a word of encouragement will often work wonders. Sometimes a word from the pulpit, not to say a sermon on the phase and work of the School, will help to a surprising degree.

Besides, there are special services such as those for Patriotic Sunday and Rally Day, or for the Quarterly Review Sunday. The minister should make full use of the opportunities which these afford.

Again, there are the local Sunday School Institute and the Summer School, to which he might see that one representative at least is sent.

At any rate, the minister should be thoroughly acquainted with Sabbath School work and make a special study of his own School.

If the minister does these things he will find ample opportunity to increase the efficiency of the School.

Once in a while, at a meeting of the teachers, he might go over the whole situation with them and suggest an improvement or two. Or he might take a few minutes during the regular church service to explain and urge some new method of work which the School should adopt. Perhaps he may have some