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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S PREPARATION.

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Before entering directly upon the subject of this paper, it will be well to take in general view an outline of the task before the Sunday School teacher. This outline is not intended to serve anything else than as an introduction to the more particular part of our study, viz:—What preparation is a Teacher bound to give to the work which he has undertaken?

The first thing that naturally interests a teacher is—Who are the pupils that I am to instruct? We reply—Chiefly the poor. In our city parishes the great majority of children who attend our S. S. are of the poorer class. Very often these children come from illiterate homes. Into their monotonous lives there never comes the joy of literary culture. Things that are aesthetic are set aside in the struggle for existence. Things that are elevating are often forgotten for those that are necessary, while things that are religious are passed over as valueless.

Picture to yourselves a child from such a home. To him the S. S. must seem a different world from that in which he daily moves. He is accustomed to vulgarity, uncleanness and cruelty. The sights that daily meet his eyes are not such as tend to refinement. Often a low standard of morality, a coarse idea of kindness, a poor method of comfort surround him. From week's end to week's end he hears the name of God only in vulgar profanity. Day after day passes with no more elevating influence about him than that which is conveyed by a heavy hand or a shrewish tongue. The love that surrounds him is of a very careless nature and has never possessed the brightness that attracts. The grim poverty that pinches his tender body is a thousand-fold enhanced by the most abject improvidence, and infinitely embittered by evil tempers that are the result of hardship, or by the cruelty that often accompanies disappointment. Family prayer, family sympathy, and one might almost say family unity are foreign to his experience.