

of either Convocation, or Parliament, should propose that the Fourth Commandment should be brought into harmony with our law, and that it should say, "Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy, except from twelve till one, and from eight till nine!" As it is, the school says "one thing, and the public-house the opposite, and as the scholars can't believe both, one of them must be silenced.

Thirdly, the Sunday traffic in strong drink destroys a vast number of the scholars who pass through our Sunday-schools. Professor Huxley says that our educational ladder should have its foot in the gutter, and its top in the university. We, as Sunday-school teachers, say, that our ladder should have its foot in the home, and its top in heaven. That the children should be cared for by Christian parents in infancy, should enter the school, pass through it into the church militant, and so on to the church triumphant. But is it so? Alas, no! The most sanguine friend of Sunday schools will have to acknowledge, that the results of Sunday-school teaching have been far below his expectation.

The East London Auxiliary Sunday-school Union says, in one of its reports, "Our beloved schools are retrograding. We fail to retain the affections of our elder scholars;" and it goes on to say, "an inquiry into the causes of this comparative failure is most imperatively demanded. The axe must be laid at the root of every tree that spreads its deadly shade over our beloved institution."

Let us see if we can find the reason of this admitted failure; and I think it will not be long to seek. The tree of which the report speaks, which so throws its deadly shade over our Sunday schools that we gather so little of the ripened fruit, is the drink traffic, especially on the Sunday.

See how it lowers the tone of public opinion as to the Sunday. When we remember that at least 130,000 of