

possess? Besides, children understand a great deal more than they are given credit for.

Great wrong may be done to many a boy and girl by failing to instruct them in the duty of church membership, or by discouraging them from joining the church when they express a desire so to do. It is a mistake to defer teaching the young this duty on the ground that they do not understand, or that a religious awakening can only take place when they are well on in their teens. Many a parent has had cause to regret in after years his failure to encourage his children, when young, to unite with the church. A mother once upbraided a young pastor because he did not seem to be able to influence her two boys for good. A Christian man, who knew the attitude of that mother to the subject of early conversion, comforted the troubled minister by saying: "Do not worry over what she says; the fault is her own. She did not do her duty to her boys when they were young. She now realizes her mistake, and wishes to put the responsibility upon you, who are in nowise to blame."

Shall a limit be placed to the age at which a boy or girl should go to the Lord's Supper? If so, what shall that limit be? At what age shall instruction be given them in the nature of the Lord's Supper and the qualifications for partaking of it? The writer has received many into the church from the ages of ten to fourteen, but he recalls receiving at least two as young as nine. He has been able to keep in close touch with these two. Both have been sincere and devoted followers of Christ throughout the years, and one of them, not long out of his teens, is now superintendent of a Sunday School, guiding other boys and girls to Christ and teaching them the duty of joining the church early in life.

In teaching boys and girls about church membership, the following reasons may be given why they should join the church:

First, emphasis should be laid upon the command of Christ. He said: "This do in remembrance of me." He also said: "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments."

Secondly, it should be pointed out that joining the church will help the boys and girls to love and serve Christ, and it will make it easier for them always to be true to him.

Thirdly, it should be shown that this is one of the ways of confessing Christ. Salvation comes through confessing Christ. Jesus said: "Whosoever . . . shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Boys and girls should be told, that their confession of Christ may lead others to confess him too.

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Rev. W. D. Reid, minister of Stanley Presbyterian Church, Westmount, Que., gives this striking testimony: "During the last fifteen years I have admitted into the communion and full membership with the church, 600 children from 9 to 16 years of age; 500 in Taylor Church, Montreal, and 100 in my present church. With one or two exceptions, every one of these young communicants has stood firm. A larger percentage of them have held fast to their profession than amongst the adults whom I have admitted to the church." Mr. Reid considers the Sunday Schools the strategic point in the work of the church. He uses Decision Cards twice a year. He himself gives an address to the scholars in connection with the distribution of the Cards. The teachers take the matter up in the class, bringing it home to each scholar individually, the minister helping as he can, and having a final interview with these, as well as all other applicants for church membership, before their names are submitted to the Session.

## THE S. S. AND Y. P. S. BOARD

*The space in this Department is at the disposal of the General Assembly's Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies, of which Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., and Rev. C. A. Myers, M.A., Confederation Life Building, Toronto, are the Secretaries, and is devoted to the plans, policies and work of the Board.*

### The Spring Time Service

A year ago, for the first time, a Spring Time Service was prepared by the Board as an experiment, mainly, but not exclusively, for the use of rural Sunday Schools. During the intervening year many testimonials have been

received as to the value of this Service for the purposes for which it was planned:

1. In organizing new Schools where none have yet been started.
2. In securing the early opening of Schools which have been closed during the winter