

Sabbath School, and were it not to prosecute this work with heartiness and success. When a congregation wants to build a church, it does not contemplate this, generally speaking, without at the same time providing accommodation for a Sabbath School in connection with itself. Mission schools are now built and supported by churches of all denominations. In our Synods, Assemblies, and Church Courts, a great deal of time is occupied and attention given to the question of the Sabbath School, and much discussion takes place as to the best means of carrying them on and of prosecuting the work with efficiency and success.

Again, the Press, that mighty engine of influence of the present day, is still teeming with treatises for the young, designed to instruct them in religious things, and to awaken their concern for their soul's eternal interest. Sir, all this shows how the Sabbath School is now regarded, and strengthens the opinion that the Sabbath School is an institution of the very greatest importance; that it is worthy of commanding the tribute and homage of God's people, and of all who wish well to the cause of religion, and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the general population of our country. It is impossible, I think, for those whose hearts are towards God and the things of God, whose desires are towards Christ and the furtherance of His cause, not to feel an interest in any movement that is designed to awaken and deepen the interest in the Sabbath School cause. There are some people who will object to Sabbath Schools on the ground that they tend to weaken the obligation under which parents lie to seek the spiritual welfare of their own children, and to labour for their spiritual instruction and their godly upbringing. Now, sir, it appears to me that this objection is at once completely met by this simple fact, which I think no one will deny, that those parents who take the largest interest in Sabbath Schools are the very persons that see most earnestly to their children's religious welfare, and that labor to attain the great end that is aimed at by Sabbath Schools. Then surely if Christian societies are called upon to look to the supervision of any, they are certainly bound to look to the welfare of the young among them; and as to those who have no parents or friends to care for them, or if they have parents, only such as are living in defiance of all that is good and holy, living in vice and profligacy—I ask what is to become of them? Are they to be left by the followers of Jesus Christ to grow up in ignorance of His Gospel without any effort to do them good? are they to be allowed to grow up to perpetuate their present state of evil in society? Who are to care for their welfare? who are to elevate them from their present degradation and confer upon them the greatest of all blessings, the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the truth as it is in Him? Who are to do so, but those who have been freely pardoned and saved by Him who came down from heaven to seek and save that which was lost! “Freely ye