

making provision for their salvation, edification and comfort, in the time of their extremity, when they are in deep distress, or when they are dying. And although, as we have said, they cannot be themselves expected to appreciate the benefit, it is possible to impress them, to some extent, with a sense of the importance of the exercise; and, knowing ourselves its importance, we do well to persevere patiently in using all the influence we have with them, and all the power we have over them, to keep them from becoming remiss in the practice of memorizing God's Word. For it is important to remember that it is necessary, in the interest of our children, both that they should learn much beyond what they see or are capable of seeing the value of, and that they should commit to memory much beyond what they can understand. They will be grateful to us afterwards that we insisted both on their learning many things which, left to themselves, they would not have learned, and on their committing to memory, much that they can grow in the understanding of only as their minds mature. Were we to be guided by their appreciation in the one case, or by their capacity of understanding in the other, we would lose the very best opportunity of storing their minds with the knowledge that is of the most importance to them, in connection with both their temporal and their spiritual interests. The Sabbath School age is the time when the mind is most susceptible of the information and impression that are to be its permanent possession, and the time to preoccupy the mind with good, which, being its first possession, is most sure to be its last. The Scripture knowledge early imparted will be the mind's permanent possession. It will be the last to be forgotten, when the memory of other things has passed away, and even when the mind has become, it may be, an utter wreck, the words of God will be remembered. And in the numerous cases in which early Christian instruction is, at the time, instrumental in no saving good, the mind's possession of Scripture knowledge is an enduring ground of the hope of a time when it will be the means of a saving change.