

SUNDAY SCHOOL GUARDIAN.



“ALL THY CHILDREN SHALL BE TAUGHT OF THE LORD.”

VOL. VIII.] TORONTO, C. W., DECEMBER, 1853. [No. 7.

THE OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

It is admitted that the position of superintendent of a Sunday school is one requiring the exercise of much judgment and considerable tact. His duties are important, and the prosperity of the school he has in charge depends in a great measure, on the manner in which they are performed.

Of course, it is presumed that he is *decidedly pious*, and not deficient in intellectual requirements. These are primary qualifications, which should be possessed by every teacher of youth. But, as occupying a higher place, a superintendent should be—

An experienced teacher. It is necessary he should be so, that the teachers under him may have perfect confidence in his ability and arrangements, inducing them to consult him in every difficulty, and to adopt his advice. And that he may be able judiciously to assort teachers and classes, he must have that liberal knowledge of Sunday school operations which is to be acquired only by experience.

As one experienced in the work, he will be at once a pattern, a counsellor, and a guide to those associated with him, and will be eminently useful and influential in his sphere; but if inexperienced, he can only nominally superintend. It is in harmony with reason and prudence that whoever directs others in an undertaking should be well and practically acquainted with its details. I imagine it to be folly to place the charge of a Sunday school in the hands of any teacher who has not matured experience to guide him in his duties, and I have seen the injurious effects of such appointments. A superintendent's responsibility is grave and serious, and he should therefore be *an experienced teacher*.

I conceive, also, that a superintendent should be possessed of *firmness and energy of mind*. Very frequent occasion will be given him, in connection with his duties, for the exercise of these qualities, especially if he be placed in a large school. To impress the unruly scholar referred to him for reproof, he must have *firmness*, and he