

application of affectionate and pointed interest, some allusions to awaken youthful attention. The habit of preaching sermons occasionally to the young, as a class, has much to commend it, especially in the ordinary course of pastoral duties. Should not every minister, in the preparation of his sermon, remember that children are to be among his hearers? Though he cannot perhaps make his whole discourse such that they can follow it, yet surely he can bring some of its paragraphs within the range of their intellectual vision. And he may rest assured of one thing: no part of his discourse will be so acceptable to the whole congregation, or receive such universal attention, as those passages which were intended especially for the little ones, and which the young appropriate as their own. It has been alleged that one reason why so few children attend the church is that the preaching in our day is not adapted to their capacities; but facts will show that there never was a time in the history of the Church when the preaching of the Word was so well adapted to awaken and hold the attention of the young as the present. More sermons are preached and published for the young now than at any former period; besides, sermons now are shorter than they were thirty or forty years ago. We were accustomed to listen to sermons from an hour to an hour-and-a-half in length, and yet we did not, even in these circumstances, manifest so much weariness as many of the restless, nervous youth of these days do under a sermon of half-an-hour. It is a mistake to attribute wholly to the want of adaptation in the modern preaching the reason for the non-attendance of the young upon the services of the sanctuary.

"3. The praise in the Sabbath school ought to be conducted so as to be in harmony with that used in the Church. When this is the case, the children will feel that this is a part of the service of the Church in which they can join, and unite their sweet voices in praise with the congregation. What a farce it is to bring children, with their sweet gleeful voices, to the house of God, to be silent listeners to a choir performing the praise in the church!

"4. Christian parents must be awakened to a true sense of their responsibility, for they chiefly must remedy the evil. The child or youth is frequently not in the house of God because the parent does not absolutely require it. The child pleads that the Church services are tedious, that he will fall asleep, or some other reason—anything so as not to go to the house of God. Parents yield to the objections of their children, go to the house of God alone, sit in the pew with the place for their children vacant, and expect the pastor to be the means of their conversion, if they think on the subject at all. To the want of parental authority may be traced much of the waywardness and indifference of the children to the Church. Many a youth is allowed by blind and unwise affection, or by parental indifference, to neglect and forsake the house of God. God's ministers must seize the sword of the Spirit, and strike quickly and often, until the dangerous feeling on the part of the parents is corrected. The boys who thirty or forty years ago sat with their parents in the family pew and worshipped God, are to-day the honored and useful men in the various walks and callings of life; whilst many of those whose parents permitted them to forsake the family pew and to neglect the house of God have already gone to ruin, or are on the highway to it. Let parents be taught to obey the Word of God, and there will be no complaint that the children of the Church are not to be found in the sanctuary. God said concerning Abraham, 'I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment.'