

had nothing to do with the results; their duty was to train up the children in a knowledge of the christian faith, and leave the result to God. But there was a great delusion existing in the minds of some persons regarding the benefits of Sunday Schools. Some persons attempted to argue that Sunday Schools were of little or no benefit because their good results were not manifest; but he was convinced that it was impossible to show the benefits of Sunday Schools at a glance in a general way; unless they could trace the individual position of each member of a Sunday School, they could not with any degree of certainty say what good had been done by any one Sunday School. One good result of early training in Sunday Schools is the influence it has on the after life of the early christian, though a vicious man; and who can tell how much the recollections of the teachings imparted in Sunday Schools affects the after life of the fallen man. We have the testimony of ministers who followed the British army to the East, and who administered consolation to the sick, the wounded and dying in the hospitals at Scutari and Varna, on the battle field at the Alma, and in the camp hospitals at Sebastopol, to the happy effects of Sunday School instruction—they invariably express the satisfaction they had in ministering to those who had been instructed in their youth in the Sunday School; for in them they had a groundwork, a sort of basis, to work upon, in such they had not to deal with heathens, or men little better taught than are the natives of South Australia. Speaking in more general terms, he said that there were many reasons which could be adduced to show the great benefit of our Sunday Schools. He would give one simple one. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin; and enlarged upon this grand truth upon more general grounds. A celebrated writer hath wisely said,—Children were God's problems, waiting for man's solution. And he declared it the imperative duty of parents to bring up their children in fixed religious principles. It was the opinion of some that all that was necessary to do for a child was to give it a thorough secular education, and sound moral instruction; but he declared that in his view the man who advanced such an opinion speaks contrary to truth, and was an infidel at heart. He then spoke of the usefulness and influence of Sunday School teachers, and contrasted their noble position with that of the man and the parent who was incapable of imparting to a child the first principles of religion. He admitted the difficulty, and the labour, and the self-denial of Sunday School teachers, and in glowing terms spoke of the merit of such self sacrifice—pointing to the acts of our blessed Saviour for instruction, and asked, is it wrong for others to follow such an example? He next referred to the happy position of the man who was early instructed in Christian truths, and who continued through life to be guided thereby. The bad man, though fully reclaimed from his wicked ways in after life, had a fearful retrospect; while he who had been brought up with a knowledge of divine truth as a little child, and had followed on upwards in the paths of a holy life, had a peaceful and a noble career to look back upon. He compared a reclaimed man to a little spring, raising not a great distance from the ocean, which quickly attained respectable proportions, fast swelling into a large river, but soon comparatively lost in the mighty ocean; while the little child brought up in the Sunday School he compared to a little spring far away in the desert, refreshing and invigorating every thing in its course as it runs along and increases in volume, and which finally at last becomes a mighty river and falls into the ocean to be seen no more. Such was the difference between the

relative positions of persons situated as above described. He then called upon them, in strong and feeling terms, for the Church's sake, for their own sake, and for the sake of their children, to follow in the path of duty, by educating the young. Some persons thought that all that was necessary was to teach a child the decalogue and general morality; and then to let him alone, but he declared that it was necessary that children should be thoroughly indoctrinated in the principles of the Bible, or else there was a great risk of their becoming a mass of infidels. He finally addressed himself especially to the children, and urged them to avail themselves of the advantages of the Sunday School. He said "remember your Creator in the days of your youth" and may you be spared many days to look back with happy recollection to the days spent in the Sunday School, and closed with a beautiful figure respecting the benefits that would flow from the instruction imparted in Sunday Schools.

A Ballad ("Hearts and Homes,") was then sung by Miss MacCarthy with admirable taste.

Dr. Hill rose, and said that he laboured under considerable disadvantage in attempting to address such an audience. In the first place, his common-place talk, he feared, would be considered very common-place indeed after hearing such elegant discourses as they did from the able gentlemen who had preceded him; and secondly, too much unanimity prevailed for him to succeed in speech-making. Were political or municipal subjects allowable, he would get on better; as it was, he found much difficulty in getting through creditably. Therefore, he did not intend to trespass long upon their time and patience, more particularly as the evening was getting late and as there were other and abler speakers to follow him. However, he could not sit down, without making some allusion to one subject, as being intimately connected with Sunday Schools, viz.,—that the elegant banquet here prepared to feast and entertain the little ones, proved the attention that was bestowed upon them by their superintendents; and the kindly returns by the children, afforded presumptive evidence of the cordial and happy feelings entertained by the children for their instructors.—And this reciprocal display of feeling of kindness and regard that existed between the teachers and the taught he regarded with great pleasure and high satisfaction; it spoke well for the benefits of Sunday Schools. It was still more satisfactory to find that these feelings were not produced by the banquet—that they were not now begun; but that they had been engendered before it was thought of. And, it was equally satisfactory to find that the adult population rightly regarded the benefits of Sunday School training.—They showed conclusively their appreciation by their presence there on this occasion; and it was gratifying to witness the marked increase of the growing appreciation of the merits of Sunday Schools by the adult population.

Miss Workman then sang very feelingly the touching ballad, "Whisper what thou feelest." She was followed by Miss Cousins, who sweetly sang another Ballad, "Gentle Annie."

Dr. Van Cortlandt rose, and was greeted with marked favor by the youthful assembly. He said that most men had some one ruling passion,—and he had to confess that his weak point was his love of children, as many of those before him could testify. It was true that he had not interfered much with the bonnets of young ladies over fifteen, and perhaps that was attributable in some degree to his bashfulness; but he was sure he had pulled the caps off fifty hundred boys, some of them as many as an hundred times; as many of those before him well knew. (Loud cries of

assent from the boys). And to such a degree did this habitual indulgence go with him, that it was customary to hear the boys exclaim as he approached,—“Here comes the doctor!” This latter remark produced very distinct manifestations of delight from the boys. The doctor then addressed a few words of happy counsel to the lads, towards the close of which he remarked that owing to an unfortunate circumstance he had not been to church for eight years until very lately, and he was willing to confess that during all that time he had not one happy hour of a Sunday. On one occasion latterly he had occasion to go to church, and as he looked around the old familiar edifice, he could not tell why, but a peculiar sensation came over him, and he felt he could not stay away any longer—so he “resolved to go to church again.” The doctor here paused a moment, and then said,—I have made my speech; I must stop here. When I began my heart was here (laying his hand well down on his left side); before I was half through it was here, (moving his hand farther up); and now it is up here, (getting his hand up near his neck); and should I go much further, no doubt it would get up under my neck-cloth and choke me,—so I will conclude. As the doctor retired the juveniles made the hall ring with no very indistinct tokens of intense satisfaction.

The children then sung the 63rd hymn,—“Come let our voices join,” &c.—Mr. Couson leading, and all the little ones joining in,—the sound of their many voices harmonizing well with the tunes of the melodeon played by Mr. Mercer.

The Rev. Mr. Lauder here rose and said that he deemed it necessary to explain the reasons they had for giving the present festival, and the objects had in view.—He said that the funds would not allow of individual tokens being dispensed, nor yet any extended recognition given generally; so the teachers had adopted the plan of the present feast, in the hope that it would afford some encouragement for the little ones to persevere in their attendance at the Sunday School. He then referred to the working of the School, and said that, all things considered, its present state was most satisfactory, as all could see, although all the members of the School were not present. And while all were not present, none were excluded; but he regretted to say that there were many children of the church not under the fostering influence of the Sunday School. He was free to admit that he took to himself much pride in the present state of the Sabbath School; but so long as any of the children of his flock remained away from it he would not be satisfied—when every child of the Church was connected with the Sabbath School he would be satisfied, but not till then. He had every hope that good results would be accomplished through the instrumentality of the Sunday School. He regarded it as the nursery of the Church; there it is that the child begins its upward growth of the perfect man. He agreed with Dr. Lewis as to the insufficiency of Common Schools in inculcating the doctrines of the Church. While he was as anxious as any man that the children should be brought under the Common School system, yet it must be admitted that the Common School system does not afford the requisite religious education for children desired by any christian man; and in view of that fact, what a blessing to them was the institution of the Sunday School. He then pointed out the difference of time provided by law for secular and religious training in the Common Schools, which rendered it impossible to be carried out; therefore he wished that all the children should regularly attend the Sunday School; if they merely attended the School and never said a lesson, they would at least carry much away with