

departments and larger classes. Better light and air, better furnishings and suitable appliances. Better officers and teachers, selected with more care. Some salaried, many specially trained. More graded schools, with teachers' meetings, and normal classes, some where supplemental work is done, and written examinations conducted. Improvement in singing, many special training classes in music. More intelligent and systematic giving. Correspondence with missionaries and discussion of plans. Better temperance work, with suitable instruction, and an effort to teach the children temperance and purity. Decided improvements in libraries, better books more carefully selected, covering a wider range, better methods of distribution, some special libraries for teachers and for primary scholars. The use of the Bible in the school-room, in place of lesson quarterlies and magazines. Better system of visitation, looking after absentees, letters of dismission, making acquaintance of parents, meetings for mothers, vacation lesson slips, birthday letters, cradle rolls, etc. More co-operation from the church, church appropriations, special days for united service, children's day, anniversaries and patriotic days.

IV. Value of voluntariness. One million five hundred thousand officers and teachers who give time and thought to the work. A low estimate in money would be one dollar per week for each, or about \$75,000,000 per annum, but much more than money is the power of love and sympathy; the true teacher gives himself; this is known and appreciated by the scholars. Without undervaluing other work, where can we find a parallel?

V. Improved publications. The improvement in Bibles is very great, and it is acknowledged that the Sunday-school is largely responsible for it. The British and American Bible Societies publish millions of copies annually, and the number of societies and publishers who also publish Bibles is legion. One private publishing company sold 750,000 copies of a high-priced Bible in one year. Helps for teachers are constantly increasing and improving. Many bound volumes by great writers, specially prepared for Sunday-school teachers, are issued annually. These cover the latest and best explorations and investigations. All the denominations and many private publishers expend large sums to provide the best helps. Teachers' magazines, quarterlies in four grades for scholars,

the work of qualified writers, printed in modern style, on good paper, with excellent illustrations. The papers for young people and children are of the highest grade, and the circulation of all these is great even in these days of wonders. All of the larger denominations issue a million copies or more each month, the largest being about four and one-half millions, while one private publisher in the west issues nearly four million copies per month, and conducts a personal correspondence with 180,000 individuals, for their benefit, and at his own expense. The Sunday-school Times and The International Evangel are the equals of any secular papers, the writers being among the foremost scholars and teachers in the world.

VI. Plans for other lands. The Sunday-school workers of America and England are united in an effort to extend their plans and methods as far as applicable to other lands. The World's First S. S. Convention was held in London in '89. A ship was chartered to convey the delegates going from America. A second convention was held at St. Louis, in '93, and the third convention is to be held in London this year ('98). The convention in '89 sent a field worker to India. A field worker for Japan has been secured, and will (D. V.) go to the London Convention and thence to Japan. A tour of the world by a company of competent Sunday-school workers is under consideration.

VII. The value of teachers. Some of the great men of America and England are now engaged in Sunday-school work, and other men may learn the value such service will be to themselves, and to others whose lives they may influence for good.

VIII. Value of the Sunday-school to society and to the State. Formation is better than reformation, and the influence exerted upon the minds of nine millions of children must be great indeed. In a western city, the authorities declared that one mission Sunday-school was worth more to preserve peace and prevent crime in a given district than the police. Who can estimate the value of Sunday-school instruction in the families from which the children come? Who can calculate the influence of the Sunday-school on the teaching in the public schools where many Sunday-school teachers are employed? And at a recent visit of professional and business men, one of our most distinguished public men, speaking of the International S. S. work, said, "I challenge the gentle-

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