

characters on the palimpsest, the words of your tracing will come to the light.

The little words of truth you utter will echo from heart to heart, as a savour of life unto life.

In the long for ever the reward of your work shall be *glorious*. The hand bearing the print of a nail shall place upon your head a crown, and the "well done" of the Master shall sound through your soul in ceaseless harmonies.—*Sunday School Teacher.*

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL—A TRAINING SCHOOL.

FOR THE FORMATION OF BENEVOLENT HABITS.

(From the Baptist Teacher.)

There are churches not a few that will "not endure sound doctrine," if the doctrine have a sound of money in it. They like sermons on justification, and sanctification, and the final perseverance of the saints. They like to hear discourses about the cross and heaven. They want to hear something that will touch their hearts; but the moment the preacher undertakes to touch their pockets, they become impatient, and go "away in a rage," and begin to conspire to secure the services of some better man, who will confine himself to "preaching the Gospel," and not deprecate the Lord's day, and the Lord's house, by the offensive introduction of financial matters.

Let the preachers, however, do their very best, and sacrifice themselves ever so heroically "in this service of faith," we have very little faith in a universal reformation. "There are crooked things," says Solomon, "that cannot be made straight;" and the longer we live the more clearly we are satisfied that Solomon was right. There are people whom nothing short of the resurrection trump will ever wake. They are too old to learn, too deaf to hear, too thoroughly set in their ways to be ever moved much out of them. We do not presume to deny that they are Christians. Some of them may be, in spite of appearances that seem to be against them. But the trouble is they have never formed the habit of giving, nor been educated in the principles that ought to govern it; and hence their shameful failure to meet the measure of their obligation.

Our hope of betterment is in the on-coming generation; and we insist, with utmost urgency, that the Sunday school shall be regarded not merely as an institution for imparting Bible truth, but an agency for the development of the highest type of Christian character, by the inculcation of practical principles, and the early formation of benevolent habits. The study of the International Lesson is a great thing; but it isn't everything. If the church of the future is to be, as we hope, immeasurably in advance of the church of to-day, it must not only *know*, but *do* and *give*. A very high authority has said: "Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." Large-hearted charity is the great desideratum of the world; not dwelling sentimentally in the heart, like a delicate perfume in a room, but trained to efficiency in practical benevolence.

The Sunday-school is a *training* school.

No agency outside of the Christian family can begin to compare with it; and in no direction is training more imperatively needed than in that which we have indicated.

Varieties.

WORDS AND DEEDS.—A laughing child flung a pebble into the ocean. The water closed over it, but it left a ripple on the wave, which widened, ever widened, ever pressed onward, until it had gathered in its wide embrace all the waters of the great deep. And the little one knew not the mighty, wide-reaching influence of the pebble in childish play her hand had dropped into the shining wave.

We are children casting pebbles into life's wide ocean, and the ripples are pressing on towards the great hereafter. To each one God has given a work to do for eternity. Reverently accept that work, cheerfully enter upon it.

Not thoughtlessly, as the child flings from its hand the pebble, let life's opportunities be thrown away. Send forth your words, your deeds, with prayer,—prayer winged with faith and love. Living thus, your own heart will be happy, other lives brightened, and God honoured.

THE EMPTY CLASS.—An empty class is a great grief to a thorough true-hearted Sunday school teacher, and yet how often such a thing is found! You notice one class always full, the children there in good time, ready with a bright smile the moment teacher enters the room. You feel that the sight of such a class does you good. Next to that you see another. The teacher comes in and sits down alone. Presently one child enters, and is shortly followed by another; but they have no word, no smile, for their teacher. And how does that teacher feel? Discouraged, disheartened, inclined to give up, thinking that some one else would do much better. But is there no other remedy? Cannot that same teacher refill that empty class in a short time, with a little patience and trouble? Certainly; and the pleasure of success will bring sufficient reward.

WHEAT AND CHAFF.—"A lady, teaching in London, and reading in the Bible about 'wheat and chaff,' found that not one of her scholars had an idea of what *wheat* was; but on asking them what 'chaff' might be, there was an immediate holding up of hands in signal of comprehension, and a unanimous reply of—'Impudence, ma'am!' The dreadful punishment allotted to such 'chaff' seemed to follow quite unquestioned."

A BAD MARK.—"I've got a boy for you, sir."

"Glad of it; who is he?" asked the master-workman of a large establishment. The man told the boy's name, and where he lived.

"I don't want him," said the master-workman; "he has got a bad mark."

"A bad mark, sir? What?"

"I have met him every day with a cigar in his mouth. I don't want smoking boys."

The Christian sometimes supposes himself to grow worse because he grows wiser. He seems more sinful because he is more enlightened: there is not more evil in him, but he sees more. JAY.

A HEATHEN trader in a seaport town came to a missionary for some religious books. When some surprise was expressed at his desiring them when he could not read them, he said that he wished them to lay about in the way of those who came to deal with him. He had always found that those who took them up, and looked them over with an air of respect and attention, dealt fairly with him. But one who tossed them aside with contempt was sure to be a bad man to trade with. He did not care anything for the books himself, he only wished them to test the honesty of others.

"TEACH that which you know best. Your teaching will be more effective, and your teaching will be more real and true, when your scholars are receiving from you part of those stores which you have fairly made your own, than when you are merely imparting what you have borrowed for the occasion." As that which we know best ought to be the great leading truths of the gospel, such as the character of God and the salvation of Jesus Christ; it is only by a personal and daily familiarity with such truths, in their relation to our souls, that we can become able teachers of the New Testament.

INCREASE OF LIGHT.—Old Master Brookes says,— "If you only have candle-light, bless God for it, and He will give you starlight; when you have got starlight, praise God for it, and He will give you moonlight; when you have got moonlight, rejoice in it, and He will give you sunlight; and when you have got sunlight, praise him still more, and He will make the light of your sun as the light of seven days, for the Lord himself shall be the light of your spirit."

WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS.—As to amusements—I mean what the world call such—we have none; the place indeed swarms with them, and cards and dancing are the professed business of almost all the genteel inhabitants of Huntingdon. We refuse to take part in them, or to be accessories to this way of murdering our time, and by so doing, have acquired the name of Methodists.—*Cowper.*

An old Highland clergyman, who had received several calls, asked his servant where he should go. The servant said: "Go where there is most sin, sir." The preacher concluded that was good advice, and went where there was most money.

FAITHFUL dealing with ourselves will be accompanied by candid dealing with our fellows. When we are fully employed in pulling the beams out of our own eyes, we shall not have much time for finding "motes" in those of others.

MARRIED.

At the Baptist Church, Barrie, on Saturday the 15th. Instant, by Pastor H. F. Griffin, ARTHUR J. READING, to Miss HULDAH J. MOORE, daughter of the late WM. MOORE, Esq., of Barrie.

[We wish our old Sunday School scholar and his young bride all the joy they have anticipated from this union.—*Ed. C. H.*]