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RUTS AND RAILS.

There are ruts, and there are rails. A plowman who always plows up the same furrow, is not much of a success as a plowman ; but an engineer who runs his engine off the track at a dangerous curve, is still less of a success as an engineer. It is a great thing to know the difference between a rut and a rail, and no Sunday-school superintendent is fully qualified for his office until he has attained to that knowledge. Every superintendent ought to be fully persuaded in his own mind as to what are the things which ought to be run on rails in his school, and what are the things which ought not to be run in ruts. And he must see to it that in his anxiety to prevent the school from running in ruts, he does not end by running the school off the rails.—S. S. Times.

HOW TO DO GOOD.

How common is the error of thinking that one's truest success is his doing the most good that is possible. Doing one's duty is always better than doing any amount of good ; better than accomplishing the largest beneficial results by one's action—apart from the question of a rich duty. Saul made the mistake of thinking that worship and sacrifice were better than simple duty-doing. The Lord sent Samuel to rebuke and to condemn Saul's folly, David did better. When his men were in two divisions, one part fighting unto death, and the other part doing nothing but stand and watch the camp equipage. David insisted that the measure of reward should be according to the men's duty-doing and not according to their active service and its results. He said : "As his part is that goeth down to battle [to do great things] ; so shall his part be that carrieth by the stuff [to attend to his simple duty there] ; they shall share alike. And it was so from that forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day." And that seems to be God's standard of approval in every sphere. The invalid, patiently enduring in weakness and suffering, a helpless charge in the care of others, is as sure of recognition, and of a glorious reward, as is the wise ruler of a great people, or the winner of souls by the thousand as a brilliant and successful preacher of Christ. One's only anxiety need be to know what is duty, and to do that. Duty-doing, not doing good, should be the highest aim of service on the part of every child of God.—S. S. Times.