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W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1898.

A Missing Link.

The Sunday-school is the most vital organization for bringing young life and young blood into our church. A very large proportion of all our converts come to us through the Sunday-school. Last year the entire number of converts received on trial in our church was reported as 23,580. Of these 11,784 are reported as coming to us through our Sunday-schools. For this evidence of God's favour and of his blessing on the faithful labours of the teachers and scholars we give devout thanks. But from the consecrated efforts of over thirty thousand teachers and officers among over a quarter of a million scholars we covet still larger results.

These scholars in our schools furnish the grandest opportunity of our church. They are in the most tender and sus-

ceptible period of their lives. Their hearts respond most quickly to the teachings of God's word and the influence of God's Spirit, and when soundly converted they are the most valuable converts we can have. They have wrapped up in them untold possibilities of usefulness.

All souls are of priceless value; and the hoary-headed sinner who in the eleventh hour is plucked as a brand from the burning, is cause for joy in heaven and on earth. But his days of service are almost ended. He is but a charred brand after all, and bearing the scars of sin can never be shaped to highest use and beauty in the service of God. But the children are like trees of the Lord's right hand planting, which shall grow in grace and beauty and bring forth fruit year after year for long, long years to God's honour and glory.

Therefore should we be most anxiously zealous to save the children and the young, to save them while they are under our hand in the school, docile and easily led, before they have wandered away beyond our reach, many of them never to return. We have not made the most of our opportunities. One of our leading ministers said publicly, "We have not given the children half a chance to come into the Church of God." In practice they were allowed to drift away and then strenuous efforts were made in our schools to bring the teaching home to the hearts and consciences of the children and lead them to early make the wise choice of the good part which shall not be taken away.

To this end some of our schools in Toronto have been holding special services in the school on Sunday afternoon. The school is closed promptly at four o'clock, and about three-quarters of an hour is given to prayer and to exhortation to a prompt decision to come out upon the Lord's side. The response of those who waited for this after meeting gave evidence of earnest purpose to serve God and was very gratifying.

These churches have hit upon a very practical and profitable method of keeping their church anniversaries. Instead of spending weeks in the learning of recitations, dialogues, and the like, this time is devoted to such special revival services as we have described. The anniversary is made the occasion of receiving in church membership and enrolling in classes those who are thus brought to make the great decision. This is not an experiment, but has been tried year after year with great success.

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