

the student stoop. It will dim the eye. It will abate our vigour. It will furrow the brow, and bleach the cheek, and blanch the hair, and all but break the heart. But our labour is our joy. We know no better, no nobler occupation. When Christ is formed in men's hearts, the hope of glory, we can afford to pity Cæsar."

THE subject of the young and their training in Scriptural knowledge and Congregational principles was very earnestly debated, and a system of general examination in Scriptural subjects recommended. There can be but little doubt that with all our Sunday school energy and appliances we are not in advance of the past generation in those instances where the old Puritan and Scotch home-training prevailed. We have any amount of reading about the Bible and a corresponding ignorance of the Bible itself. It would not be difficult to match our English brethren in obtaining similar answers to this on Scripture biography from some of our classes "Jezebel married a lot of men, then she said they were not her husbands, and she put them on one side and then she married some more." We heard not long ago of a teacher who explained the Saviour's words, John iv. 35, of the fields already white with harvest by stating that the Samaritans wore white robes as distinguished from the red or scarlet worn by the Jews, and our Saviour thereby alluded to the multitude of Samaritans to be gathered in; and the people "gazed at words so deep, amazed," not dreaming this was all bosh. A simple Scotch lad of the past generation would have "speered o' the gude man" as to the source of his information. There is great Bible ignorance, partly because the Christian Churches have not realized that education having been thoroughly secularized, upon them devolves the task of instructing in Scripture knowledge.

THIS subject of Scripture teaching suggests a reminiscence. It was permitted the writer to spend a quiet Sunday in Birmingham some months since. Of course we went to Carr's Lane Chapel, and heard Mr. Dale. It was our first sight of the man. Among many things we marked, this impressed us, the *restrained* power of the preacher. We could see latent what at Manchester we felt in exercise, the

power to sway an audience and carry them onward on a torrent of feeling; but in that pulpit the strong will seemed to say to that power—nay! my province here is to teach, and by teaching to leave an impression strong feeling may destroy; and teach the preacher certainly did. The young who sit under that ministry are *trained*, and will be heard of after many days. Thomas Binney taught, and impressed through his teaching, and today the wide world over men of his training are manfully doing the Master's work with the strength that teaching gave. We need more of such preaching, laying foundations that last; less of mushroom growths or Jonah-gourds that burst forth with gushing power to wither in a day and leave decay behind.

To return to the Union.—Denominational teaching was insisted upon. Congregationalism must have a reason for its existence, if not, what business has it here? If there is a reason or reasons let it be known. Children should feel that churches they are supposed to attend have fixed principles. "Father, why are you a Congregationalist?" asked a youth of his sire. "I don't know, ask so-and-so," was the reply. Is it any wonder that the son should cease to be as the father was? Not that bigotry or sectarianism should be inculcated, but that there should be a definiteness in our aim. We do not want to train religious jelly-fishes. We do not!

ENGLAND is moving in the matter of temperance. A standing army of 600,000 drunkards, with a yearly death roll of one in every ten, is too serious a matter to be trifled with, and the total abstinence principle is rapidly gaining ground among the ministry, and a determined step was taken by the Union towards the closing of the places where intoxicants are sold on the Sabbath. Mr. Pearson, of St. George's, Liverpool, headed the movement. God grant it speedy success!

THE Jubilee Fund has reached £200,000, and still it grows, though it is requiring the strong, persistent efforts of our friend Dr. Hannay and his coadjutors to press it on towards its desired limit. The Churches there as here are in many places cursed with an independence which shuts them up to their own precious selves, oblivious of the