

thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up." In full harmony, still further, with the old dispensation, on this point is the new dispensation which, speaking through Paul, enjoins in the exact spirit of Abraham and Moses, "And ye fathers . . . bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Thus from the instincts of our race, from the dictates of reason and from the command of Holy Writ we are forced to the conclusion that God's institution for teaching religion and morality is the *home-circle*, and God's appointed teachers in His Sabbath School are the *parents of the pupils*.

From this simple principle, from the God-given, sacred, inalienable duty and privilege of parents, "to train up their offspring in the way in which they ought to go," from this principle, we say, springs the right of Christian parents to delegate a *share* of their high calling to the teachers whom they may employ for five days of the week to teach to their children secular knowledge, and also to the church with whose communion they are connected. The delegation of religious teaching by Christian parents to the public schools of the country constitutes the true, solid unassailable basis on which the Christian majority of a school section can demand, that to their children, at least, their delegate (*stantem in loco parentis*) during school hours, *i.e.* the teacher, shall read and if need be explain and apply as far as practicable and wise, for a man in his position, the Word of God. This right of delegating the work of religious teaching, on the part of a Christian congregation, which is the foundation, indeed, of the pastoral office, is, also, the foundation of our Sabbath Schools, which ought not to usurp therefore, as one of our contributors in a recent number of our magazine has well said, all the functions of the parents.\* The Sabbath school is therefore in this view

\* "The Sabbath School should be regarded only as the auxiliary of that domestic nurture and admonition of the Lord which surrounds every Christian home . . . The Sabbath School can hardly be more than a meeting for parade and review, to exhibit the progress made by the home-drill during the week."—Mr. JOHN CAMERON, B.A., Winnipeg, in Dec No., 1877, C.C.M.