

ledge to discern the Lord's body, they ought to be informed it is their duty and their privilege to come to the Lord's Supper.'—(*Directory for Publick Worship, chap. ix.*) And yet the question has arisen in our times, 'How can we induce our children to attend the house of God?' The question implies that there *are* children, and *many* children, members of the visible Church, in our professedly godly families, who rarely or ever attend the house of God, or wait upon the public ministry of the Word, in company with their parents. God's ministers are everywhere becoming alarmed at the startling fact. Whilst a large proportion of the children of this country, including, of course, those in godless families, are outside of the Sabbath school, it is also an alarming fact that so many of those who have been dedicated to God in baptism, members of the visible Church, are growing up in neglect of the public preaching of the Word. How is this evil, of which so many complain, to be remedied? We propose to answer this question.

"1. The whole Church—ministers, elders, and members—must be aroused to a thoughtful consideration of this subject. If the Church is permitting the young to slip away from the public preaching of the Word, she is failing in an essential feature of her high and holy calling. 'Feed my lambs' is enjoined upon every minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, as truly as it was upon Peter; but how can he feed them in the public ministrations of the Word, if they are not found in the house of God on the Sabbath? The natural and Divine order is for the sheep and lambs to be fed together; they must lie down in the same 'green pastures'; they must be led by the same 'still waters.' It is a fundamental truth that Scriptural education is the main agency to be used in the work of training the young for God's kingdom and glory. Children believe what they are taught to believe. Teach the child to love and honor the sanctuary, and 'when he is old he will not depart from it.' The Psalmist says, 'Those that be planted in the House of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age.' Any arrangement that tends to draw away children from the House of God is to be deprecated. Hence the Sabbath-school should not be made a substitute for the church. If in any instance the school is so conducted, with respect to its teachings or any of its arrangements, as to prevent the young from attending the church, or to become regarded by scholars or teachers as an equivalent for the public worship of God in His sanctuary, assuredly in such a case there has been a sad mistake. It is sometimes argued that attendance at the Sabbath-school and then at the church are too exhausting for a child. Is not this, for the most part, a mistake? Is not the Sabbath-school almost a pleasant recreation? Notice the children as they come out of any well conducted school. You see no tired, jaded looks among them. They are as full of life and buoyancy as when they left home in the morning; they are just as ready and as fitted, physically and mentally, for attending the church as if they had come fresh from home; indeed, in many instances, more so. For there is an enlivening and a hallowed influence under the faithful instructions of a good teacher, which awaken the faculties, and makes them more ready for hearing and receiving the Divine message from the lips of the ambassador of Christ. Can the Church be guiltless, then, if she fails to bring her children to the house of God?

"2. The Ministers of the Gospel must ever keep this subject in view. They must not divorce the injunction, 'Feed my sheep; feed my lambs.' Sermons ought generally to have some adaptation to the young, some