

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THE MAGIC OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

1. What a good thing is a Sunday School in a bad neighbourhood? It is like a gas light in some dangerous corner; it makes darkness visible. It is a "Washing and Ironing Society." It makes the people clean and tidy. It is a "Mechanics' Institute." It draws out the mind of the people. It is a society for "the reformation of manners," producing a more thorough change than could be effected by a thousand laws. It is a society for "keeping holy the Sabbath day"—which, by a certain indefinable charm, draws men from the abodes of sin to the house of the Lord. It is a society for "securing the salvation of souls," the great influence of which will never be known until the final reckoning day. Think of this dear reader, and try to place a good Sunday School in every bad neighborhood.

2. The worse any place is, the more it needs our help, and the greater should be our promptitude to benefit it. Think of your blessed Lord. He came to *seek*, in order to save; it was because our case was too bad for any creature to help us, that he came himself. Had he waited until sinners had sent for him, he would never have come; so it is with multitudes of persons in our large towns. Their case is desperate; and if some mighty effort is not made for them they will be lost. Try to enlist every godly person in your congregation to help you.—All cannot be teachers, though many could teach who have not

tried—yet all can help. The children are in a deep dungeon; do you go down and fetch them up, and ask the aged saints to hold the ropes; do you go down and bring them up, and present them alive—and ask the ladies to give them clothes.—You will not work in vain.

3. The most unlikely places, if properly worked, will yield a rich reward. I saw some of these ragged boys with Testaments under their arms, and they went into the narrow street, as colporteurs of the Bible Society. Some of the children obtained copies of the hymns which we sung, and they carried them to the narrow street as distributors for the Sunday School and Tract Society. Some of them went home with part of the sermon in their head, about the love of Christ, and they became "home missionaries." There are golden materials in the most unusual places; and Sunday School teachers are operatives to work up these materials into gems, to be placed in the Mediator's crown! O why should not every large congregation have several Sunday Schools?

4. All tax payers should be particularly urged to help in this laudable work, as a matter of economy. It will raise the neighborhood from its degradation, and lead to habits of industry and sobriety, and prudence and saving. They will gradually feel that a good character is of great worth; and to seek it and maintain it, is one great object in life. Let this object be gained, and how many taxes will be saved!

5. All police officers should be