

DO WE EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN.

Of course we do. We send them to school five days of the week and to church and Sabbath school on Sundays. They know how to read, write and cipher. They can tell nouns from adverbs and arrange their sentences in an orderly way. The training they receive in our public schools is invaluable, and the teachers, male and female, are for the most part thoughtful, respectable, God-fearing members of the community. All this we gratefully acknowledge. It is not at all in the spirit of fault-finding with our teachers or with our teachers or with our educational system that we call the attention of ministers, sessions and parents to the duty of giving greater and still greater attention to the religious education of the young. The religious instruction they can get in the day school and in the Sabbath school is no doubt valuable, but it is only a preparation, an aid, to what must come from parents or others who for the love of God will become religious instructors. Our children should have the Shorter Catechism and the best Hymns engraved upon their memory. It will be a fatal mistake if parents persuade themselves that this teaching will ever come to their children through any other agency than that of the Church and the family. Religious teaching in common schools is very good no doubt. Where there is no parental care, where churches fail to do the work, let us be most thankful for even the little the school can do. But our words are for parents who love their little ones and are anxious to secure their best interests for time and eternity. To such we say,—*make sure of the religious instruction of your children, by attending to it yourselves!*—*Witness.*

EARNESTNESS IS POWER.

He who is in earnest will impress himself on others whether he would impart to them or receive from them. Yet no man will gain in earnestness by seeking to be in earnest; nor will he convince others that he is in earnest. In order to show earnestness a man must be in earnest; and the man who is in earnest cannot help showing it. Earnestness is of the man's self, and it is drawn out by the cause that can draw it. When it is drawn out every one who sees and hears the man knows that his earnestness is real. If, therefore, a man is in earnest in behalf of anything he undertakes, he may know that he has power in that direction; but if he lacks earnestness, it is of no use for him to try to seem in earnest.—*Sunday School Times.*

A SOLITARY WAY.

There is a mystery in human hearts,
And though we be enriched by a host
Of those who love us well, and are beloved,
To every one of us, from time to time,
There comes a sense of utter loneliness.
Our dearest friend is "stranger" to our joy,
And cannot realize our bitterness.
"There is not one who really understands,
Not one to enter into *all* I feel;"
Such is the cry of each of us in turn,
We wander in a "solitary way."
No matter what or where our lot may be;
Each heart, mysterious even to itself.
Must live its inner life in solitude.
And would you know the reason why this is
It is because the Lord desires our love.
In every heart he wishes to be *first*.
He therefore keeps the secret-key Himself,
To open *all* its chambers, and to bless
With *perfect* sympathy and holy peace,
Each solitary soul which comes to *Him*.
So when we feel this loneliness, it is
The voice of Jesus saying, "Come to Me;"
And every time we are "not understood,"
It is a call to us to come *again*;
For Christ alone can satisfy the soul,
And those who walk with him from day to day
Can never have "a solitary way."
And when beneath some heavy cross you faint,
And say "I cannot bear this load alone,"
You say the truth. Christ made it purposely
So heavy that you must return to Him.
The bitter grief, which "no one understands,"
Conveys a secret message from the King,
Entreating you to come to him *again*.
The Man of sorrows understands it well,
In all points tempted He can feel with you.
You cannot come too often, or too near.
The Son of God is infinite in grace,
His presence satisfies the longing soul,
And those who walk with Him from day to day
Can never have "a solitary way."—*Tract.*

CHURCH ROUNDERS.

In every great city there are a multitude of people who may be called "rounders," who go to church when it is convenient, and are at hand early and late to get good seats. They have no church ties, and care only for the pleasure of sitting with well-dressed people, and listening to the sermon. They take no part in the services, and often sit half upright in prayer, and show by irreverence and conversation that they have no sympathy with the spiritual worship and teaching of the place. These persons fill the places which rightfully belong to the rever-