

better. In these days in most of our churches, there is no valid excuse for ignorance. Bibles are so numerous and the facilities for acquiring a tolerably correct knowledge of the scriptures are so great that ignorance is shameful. Yet what pastor does not know, what Sabbath School Superintendent is not aware, that ignorance of even elementary truths prevails to an alarming extent in our membership. Why is it so difficult in many quarters to obtain an efficient staff of Sabbath School Teachers? Is it for want of disposition to work for Christ in this department? or is it owing to a felt deficiency of qualification to enter this responsible arena of christian effort? We believe, in a large proportion of instances, the latter is the true cause. How then can we expect, if the foregoing be true, a large measure of spiritual growth, until this palpable ignorance of bible truth is removed? This may seem a reflection upon the excellent pastors of our churches, but it is not so intended. If a share of blame fall upon them, then the writer of this must come in for his full proportion. But in these days, when none but half-hour sermons will be tolerated, it is hardly supposable that the masses are to be indoctrinated wholly from the pulpit. Our Sabbath Schools are doing a good work, but it is largely elementary. We ought to have *Bible Schools*, or *Bible Meetings*, not confined to the Sabbath, where the pastor can preside and furnish a course of instruction which must tell with powerful effect upon the growth of our people. Here too, we affectionately call upon the older portion of our membership to arouse themselves to exertion in this direction and so assist pastors in their efforts to feed the masses with the bread of life. If the sheep regale themselves in "green pastures and beside still waters," the lambs will draw much nourishment from them. But *Religious Literature* apart from the Bible is a matter claiming consideration here. 'Tis true you now and then meet with a broad well developed christian whose meat and drink have all been derived from the *Holy Scriptures*. Ruin by the fall, Redemption by Christ, and Regeneration by the Spirit, have formed a solid basis for christian character, and all kindred truths have been so studied and digested as to become part and parcel of the inner man. But these specimens are rare as they are valuable. There are undoubtedly books that throw light upon bible teaching, and greatly assist the mind in understanding it. These works should be obtained and read by our people. *Christian Biography* is a study calculated to stimulate the soul's better passions, and so promote *Spiritual growth*. *Church History* should not be overlooked, especially should Baptists seek to become acquainted with the struggles and triumphs of their brethren in the past ages. *Cramp's History* ought to be in every Baptist family, not simply to ornament centre tables, but to nourish and strengthen by its careful perusal, christian souls for the conflicts of the way. Attention must be given to the study of our principles, and every help to such investigation within the reach of our people, procured. *Wayland's Principles and Practices of the Baptists*, will prove an invaluable aid in this direction, and should be in the hands of all.