

upon us in such abundance, and reveal to us the things that are unseen and eternal. Never was a true awakening more truly needed than now.

SABBATH SCHOOL WORK.

Our Synod has instructed the Presbyteries to devote, at least, one Session to the interests of the Sabbath Schools within their bounds. The importance of Sabbath School work is becoming daily more manifest. The Church cannot neglect it but at her peril. Our children are the Lord's property; they are given to us to bring up for Him.

There is no worse delusion in connection with our Sabbath Schools, than that parents may get rid of their own duties by simply farming out their children to the Sabbath School. In this connection we quote the following paragraphs from the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*:

How many parents ever accompany their children to the Sabbath school to learn about the character of their instruction? If home duties are deputed to others, we would at least think that they would know about how well they are done. If it were a frock sent to the dressmaker's, or a coat to the tailor's, it would be carefully examined when returned. But how many parents ever come to the Sabbath schools, and sit down by the classes where their children are, to know for themselves the kind of instruction they are there receiving? The pastor and superintendent are expected to do this, and further facilitate this easy method of raising children. And by what authority did they become the godfathers of your children? or by what act of presumption did they get between you and your obligations? And if this were true, when were ever parents heard to sharply question either about the religious training that the Sabbath school was imparting? Parents will run about for months seeking testimonials of ability and fidelity of teachers in boarding-schools, in colleges, and seminaries; but when was this done in regard to the Sabbath school, where is entrusted eternal interests? So far as personal scrutiny goes, the majority of church members would not know, unless the children should let it out, if Mormonism was taught in the Sabbath school. Certainly they would not know by any examination to which they submit their children after the school is over.

The Sabbath school is a heaven-given agency for good, but Heaven's best blessings have oft been turned into a curse, and the present position into which parental indolence is pushing the Sabbath school, and the want of personal care for it in that position, will sooner or later turn the Sabbath school into a family calamity.

High as the Sabbath school system stands among God's gifts, there is still too much purely human in it to let it go unwatched. Even the Church is not so infallible that it could bear to be let alone in its course; and it never was so infallible as to relieve the home, and the parents in it, of their obligations to train their own children for themselves, and by themselves, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In our natural indolence and carelessness we are apt to make any plausible excuse for neglecting the most solemn duties, while we may be careful about the slight and fleeting interests of this life. The Church, as a whole, is responsible for the children; but there is perhaps no more effectual way of teaching and training them, than by training the parents to train their own families, and insisting that they shall do it.

The Sabbath school should always help the parents and the parents help the School. There must be failure unless both co-operate cordially and systematically. The end of the Sabbath school, as of family training, is the instruction and conversion, and building-up of children.

Principal Rainy in a recent address said:—

Children need the Holy Spirit not only as creatures that they may be improved, but as sinners that they may be saved. The Lord Jesus Christ showed much love to children, and it was when he was advocating his right to care for the little ones that he gave as his reason that "The Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost." Thus little children need to be saved, and they need the influence of the Holy Ghost; that was essential to true success. But what should we count to be success as Sabbath-school teachers? There are many things we might succeed in doing, by skillful application, with children by opening their minds and sweetening their manners, but the success we desire is that the kingdom of God should come to them; that their minds should open to see in the true light, God, Christ, sin, and the eternal world; that they should become the subjects of true and lively faith, and love, and repentance; and not only that, but that it