

Mr. Chairman, after trying the experiment, we have come to believe in it for three reasons :

(1) Because, if the home and the church do not together afford the children a distinct opportunity for decision, the outside world will. We find the book stores getting a certain class ; cigar stores get them ; the billiard halls get them ; the saloons get them. We go down to see the theatres emptying at night, and we find that the theatres get them. We find the Sabbath bicycle gets them ; we find the Vaudeville in the parks gets them ; and, at last, the Penitentiary gets many of them ; but we find that neither the Sabbath School, the Church, the Epworth League nor the Christian Endeavor really gets hold of a very large proportion of the boys.

(2) Religion, we find, begins very early in life. You remember how Timothy's teaching began when he was comparatively young. How strongly Paul puts that when he reminds Timothy that from a babe he had known the sacred Scriptures. Now, because they began with the children, the Hebrew people, as a race, furnish more great men than Greece, than Rome, than Egypt put together—men whose goodness and moral rectitude amounted to genius. Note how marvellously prolific was the Hebrew race in men of Alpine strength, men of marvellous genius ; men like Moses and Joshua and Samuel and David and Elijah and Peter and Paul and Abraham and Isaac and Joseph and, above all, the Messiah Himself. And the thought is that there must be some connection between the early religious training of the children and the marvellous after-production of such a large proportion of real history-making men. So we come to the conclusion that we must begin as the Hebrews began, and we must make our first impressions before the world can make its first impressions. No colors are ever so radiant as the colors of childhood ; no music is so full of melody as the music of childhood. Every new teacher influences the child less than the former teacher, and if "Decision Sabbath" is to make an impression, it will have to do so, properly led up to, by the right person, in order that this Sabbath may be among the memories of early boyhood and early girlhood, that shall stand amidst the wreck of worlds.

History proves conclusively this truth, that early ideals, that early decisions tell emphatically on the after-life of the child outside of the religious sphere, and if outside of the religious sphere, we reason, surely within it.

Now, "Decision Sunday" steps right into the life of a child at that period when ideals begin to take hold of him or her, and if you lead up to it properly, with the sanction and care that the Scripture demands of you, you are going to make it one of the most blessed days in the history of your church.

Now, the point I would emphasize to-night is one, perhaps, more interesting to the pastor than to the Sunday School teacher, because "Decision Day," with its necessarily thorough preparation, gives to