

of S. Schools was to gather in the young outcasts from the streets and lead them to a Saviour. In a few short years the work had spread over the land and had effected a vast change for the better in all the towns and villages into which it was introduced. Are there not many such little miseries in every one of our villages? There are—and it is our bounden duty to “gather them in.” The S. S. system has widened so much that it has become an essential part of the work of the Church. If the Church wishes to prosper she must look after the young. She must seek to bring the young under the influence of saving truth. One great evil arising from the prevalence of the S. S. system is this, that instruction is in many cases taken out of the hands of the parents. But this is not the sphere of the Sabbath School. Its place is to assist the parent, not to interfere. The two (home and S. S. instruction) go hand in hand. Nothing can free parents from their responsibility in this matter. There was a Chinese Proverb, “If you would have a clean city let every one sweep before his own door.” It is a sad fact that many of our so-called Christian homes are entirely void of religion. It takes more than walls to make a home. It is only a home where love reigns and where Christ is recognised. Look at the Scottish nation! The proud position she occupies as containing a noble, influential people is the result of serious, thoughtful attention paid to instruction in divine things. Parents you like to see your children rise in respect and position. The best portion you can leave them, the best safe guard you can give them is a knowledge of divine things. The young are exposed to many temptations. Remember in connection with this painful fact, that home instruction is *never* lost. Careless parents you give over too much to the S. S. You send your children from Sabbath to Sabbath to the school, and—that is all. In ordinary business matters you leave nothing to others in trust. Now, if you wish to succeed let nothing escape your observation. And yet, how much more important the spiritual welfare of your children! Many parents when too late regret their apathy in this respect. Those most easily brought to Christ are the young, whose minds are so susceptible either for good or evil. It is very difficult indeed to waken up the gospel-hardened to a knowledge of their real condition. Parents then I call upon you to give instructions at home; to see that your children are at school; that they are regular and punctual; that their lessons are carefully prepared; that your child exhibits ready obedience to his teacher; that he regards his teacher with a degree of respect and love, and that he is earnestly questioned regarding the day's lessons after his return home. More than this encourage both teachers and scholars by frequent visits to the school. Finally, bound as you are by the strongest ties of affection and by your desire to see the cause of Christ prosper, it is your duty to pray earnestly and faithfully for each individual of your family, and for all S. S. work and workers.”

CHOIR.—“THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN.”

Mr. Unsworth was now called on; Mr. chairman and Christian