

embraces some of the most biblically informed and influential christians of the church, and that upon no matter is the church universal more united.

If even there was an object to which we could be invited with the "Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," it is this S. S. work.

What a contemplation the greater part of the S. Schools of the world from North America to Japan and China—from Europe to the Isles of the Sea all being taught, and their teachers all studying *the same lesson*. Think of over 300 periodicals, secular and religious, publishing helps and notes on the lessons! Mark the Conferences and Conventions, State and Provincial and now International, county, city and town, township and village meetings for light and inspiration on this work and look at the record of enlistments to this work and of conversions to God by it. Why it is from the S. School that Pastors and Missionaries come and that the majority of all the earnest, active and intelligent christian workers are gathered.

Nothing has so broken down sectional prejudice—nothing has so brought the one family of God together. It is a fulfilling in measure the promise "A little child shall lead them."

But I asked at the commencement what was intended as a reply to the question in this topic. Was it, what position or place or relation has it now to other matters? In Raikes' day, and more or less for years since, it was a good work without any very close connection with the Church. That it has been ever, more or less in some degree, a nursery for the church is true. Here in the S. School were those who were born of God, adopted into His family, and added to the church; but generally the S. School was not regarded as a part of the special work of the Church, and to my mind it has been well that there were those who, though not regularly commissioned by church organizations, gave themselves to this work. Nor do I think lightly of the S. Schools that were of a union character as some have done, speaking of them as "better than nothing," schools where nothing definite could be taught, and the like. No, they have often been as intelligent and productive as those allied to church organizations.

But the position that S. S. work is now attaining is that it is church work; rapidly and increasingly our S. Schools are being taught by its devoted members, provided with the necessary means of support, and regarded as the most fruitful

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