

2. Follow a system of Lessons. The Edinburgh Series are very good. But they are not always within reach; and it was felt that much inconvenience would be obviated by our having Lessons of our own. It is scarcely necessary to say a word in proof or illustration of the necessity of following a regular system. All the teachers and scholars and the minister know unmistakeably the Lesson for the day. Study is thus made easy, and the work of the school is better done.

3. Secure a good Library. Take collections in the school, and from the church; scour the neighbourhood for money till you have enough to secure a hundred or two hundred volumes. Do not invest the money in tawdry story-books or in heavy livinity, but in a judicious mixture of Biography, Sacred History, Narratives &c.—something for the young as well as the more mature in years. It is desirable also to supply the children with a suitable monthly publication.

4. The great aim of Sabbath School instruction is the conversion of the children to God. It is for this we issue Lessons — It is for this we procure Libraries. For this we labour and pray. Without the attainment of this end we are sadly disappointed. This end gained we are repaid a thousand fold for all our toil. "There is a mode of urging children to become Christians which is repulsive and hardening. But there is another and a worse extreme, that of never approaching the subject. Some teach in the Sabbath School as if their only object was to amuse the children or give them curious and entertaining biblical knowledge. The habit is entirely too rare of making direct personal appeals to scholars on the subject of their salvation." "The great aim of the Sabbath School teacher should be to bring children to the saving knowledge of Christ. He should let no Sabbath pass, as the pastor should let no sermon pass, without making those under his care feel that he is aiming at their conversion."

5. Let no one be reluctant to aid in the work of the Sabbath School as a teacher or as a scholar. It is a noble field of usefulness where a man or woman of but moderate

talents and education can do a great deal of good. In this country where ministers have to travel much and preach often it is unreasonable to expect them to be always or very often present in the school. It is therefore all the more incumbent on others to join heartily in the work. It is the Lord's work; blessed are they who are fellow-workers with Him!

CHURCH DEBTS.

We read that "at a late meeting of the Baptist Union in England, it was found that the total amount of debt owed by the Baptist churches for their chapels was \$307,500, of which \$27,500 had been paid during the last year. It was at once resolved, as one of the surest means of having their congregations placed on a good working foundation, that an effort should be made to raise during the coming year \$500,000 as a building fund. In all probability it will be done, and what an incumbrance will be removed!" It is noted that every denomination is now wakening up to the necessity of wiping away Church debts. It is the same in England, Scotland and the United States. It should be so among us also. A heavy debt on any one congregation is an injury to the whole church. If you have to pay some hundreds of dollars for interest, you withhold that much from the evangelical enterprises that cry aloud for aid. Sometimes the minister's salary is cut down and crippled to meet the debt: often the Home and Foreign Mission Funds, the aid given to sufferers. No one is benefitted by the debt but the Money-lender who often is not a member of the church, and who even if he were a member could as profitably invest his capital elsewhere. It is very desirable that our church should have a "Debt-Extinction" Fund, to aid weak congregations in getting out of the meshes of debt. But we have it not; and the only substitute is to send the Pastor canvassing the country side for subscriptions. This is throwing a very heavy burden on ministers; but we do not see how it can be avoided. We trust that our readers will always meet ministers on such an errand with a cordial smile and open-handed liberality.