

things for him to know—the nature of the material out of which the house is to be built, and the plans which the architect has made of the finished house. It is still more important that the parent in the home, and the teacher in the Sabbath School, should know the nature of the material in their charge, and what the proper product should be when it is finished, and ready to leave our hands. The lack of a right knowledge of these things I believe to be the cause of failure in innumerable cases, in our efforts to build up in the home, and in the Sabbath School, Christ-like characters in our young men and women.

What, then, is the nature of the child, the material with which we have to deal, and out of which we are to rear our structure? For the answer, I shall go directly to the Master—the Great Teacher, to whom we would do well to appeal far more often than we do, when we are to study the nature of man, and the character of the work we have to do.

“Then were brought unto Him little children, that He should put His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, ‘Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.’”

Again, in rebuking His disciples for their selfishness, He said, “Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” And further, “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones, for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”

I quote from the highest authority I know of, and they satisfy me of the purity, innocence, and Christ-like nature of the child.

What should be the *finished* structure? I shall again find the answer in the words of Jesus, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father, which art

in heaven, is perfect.” Here, then, we have a human being whose beginning is purity, and whose end should be perfect man; but this being comes to us helpless, and dependent upon us for proper growth, physically, mentally and spiritually, in its earlier stages of development. Hence our great responsibility. I conceive that, along this line, the work of the home and of the Sabbath School is the same—to draw out, to inspire, to aid the soul in its development along the lines of purity, until conduct is determined and the character is established, and that character is Christ-like. It is now generally considered, I think, that environment has more to do with character making than heredity has. That is, if we take a child from the city slums, and place it in a Christian home with Christ-like environment, we are more likely to establish a good character, than we would be if we took a child from a Christian home, and placed it in the slum home with its degrading surroundings. Hence, again, the responsibility devolving upon us to exert a proper influence in our homes and in the Sabbath School. In order to do this, and to have our lives forever pointing upwards, we must be baptized, and that daily, by the Holy Ghost, into the very spirit of Christ. Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me.” How can we, as teachers or as parents, expect to lift up these little ones, and place their feet upon the Rock, unless we are established upon that Rock ourselves.

I am a lover of a beautiful orchard, and I know that to grow such an orchard it is necessary to pay unremitting attention to the trees year after year, from the tiny sprout to the full grown tree. If I should allow this orchard to be scarred by the plow in tilling it, or bent over by the wind, or broken and browsed off by the cattle, or left untrimmed and ragged, what think you would be its condition when it should bear fruit? A neighbor would probably say to me, “Your orchard is