

If it is considered necessary to keep little ones faithfully at day school till a solid foundation of the rudimentary principles of education is laid, surely the importance of laying as good a foundation for religious instruction is equally plain.

Children understand more than we are apt to suppose. There are bits in every sermon, that, like seeds borne by the wind, settle down into their minds and hearts, but even if they do not understand a single sentence of the sermon, they do follow the songs and prayers. Besides, in going to church they are forming a good habit that is being gradually, but surely strengthened week by week.

Not only should the fathers—who are looked up to as models by the little boys—and mothers—who are imitated in every particular by the girlies—be faithful in their own attendance, but they should bring their little ones with them. They may be restless at first, may perhaps worry you or those sitting near you; but never mind. In a few Sundays the restlessness is overcome. The very people who perhaps have a chronic habit of complaining that "So-and-so's children are continually disturbing us," would feel mortified if the little tots were to be kept home on their account, and would be quite willing to admit that their grievance had been magnified.

A word may be dropped here to Sabbath School teachers. Do we as teachers set a standard of faithfulness to our own church services, worthy of imitation by our classes? Let us take thought of the importance of our own influence in the matter. A slack teacher can hardly hope to have anything but slack scholars.

The sacredness of God's house should be impressed upon the little ones from infancy—not a fear, but a loving, tender solemnity. Little boys should be taught reverence, by the uncovering of the head the moment they enter the vestibule of the church. All children should understand that silence becomes the house of God. Encourage the little folks to talk about what they have observed while in church. Guide their thoughts carefully from anything that savors of the secular. Let them tell you their

impressions of the sermon. Their remarks and observations will sometimes astonish you. If they know that you are likely to talk with them after you get home about what the minister has said, they are more likely to pay attention while at church; and let the importance of loyalty to their own church be vividly kept before them.

Great care, too, should be exercised that all remarks about the service be tinged with the broadest Christian charity. The music may not have suited us; but it is not likely we could have done nearly as well ourselves. The sermon may have seemed a little long; but were we in a right frame of mind? We little realize what disastrous effects such criticisms may have on the children in after years. The impressions of children abide.

Children can scarcely help growing up children of God, with good Christian influences and example continually surrounding them. It may seem a matter of small account whether a child is at, or absent from, the service on a particular Sabbath morning, whether he hears his minister well or ill spoken of; but it is from the sowing of very tiny seeds that great harvests come.

Guelph, Ont.

#### THE STORY OF TWO PLANTS

This is the story of two plants. The first of them, as soon as its head popped above the soil, began to think, "I wonder what sort of blossom I shall bear? Shall I have a red rose, or a white lily, or a blue harebell, or a purple hyacinth, or a yellow tulip? Will people praise me, and shall I get into a rich vase in some rich house?"

Such thoughts the silly plant could not keep out of its head. It paid no attention to the rain and sun and soil. It did not send out its little rootlets to gather in the substances that would have made it strong and flourishing. It just dreamed and dreamed and dreamed. The result was that never a blossom came, and scarcely a leaf, and the plant could not live on its poor dried-up roots.

But the beautiful plant! Why! it spent no thought on what might happen some day, but simply grew in the best way it