

accepted everything the teacher said without question, has passed away, and his place is taken by a young man who questions everything and likes to think that he can think for himself. To continue teaching such a class as if they had no minds of their own is to court failure. The young men will simply not endure pious exhortations Sabbath after Sabbath from even the most devout teacher. Their deep questionings cannot be suppressed, and it is much better that these should be discussed in the class under wise guidance than that they should be left to be answered by the popular magazine or debating club. Even the very highest themes of God's nature and purposes, and man's origin and duty and destiny should not be shirked. They will not understand fully—who does? But they will be stronger and wiser and humbler for having grappled with them.

It is always true that only as he influences the separate individuals can the teacher help the class, but it is supremely true of young men. Morbidly conscious of his own personality, the young man is interested in the teacher only in proportion as the teacher is interested in him, and he is responsive to a degree to warm, personal, loving sympathy, without which no teacher of young men can hope to succeed.

St. Matthew's Church, Montreal

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SAME PROBLEM By Rev. Archibald Lee, B.A.

Why do many of our older boys lose interest in the Sabbath School?

No doubt there are various reasons, but one reason seems to be the prevalent idea of the nature of its work. What is the idea of the Sabbath School? It is a school for boys and girls. To attend the Sabbath School is a badge of childhood, and older boys who wish to be regarded as men begin to lose interest in it accordingly.

Now, how have our boys got this idea of the Sabbath School? Is it not because so few fathers attend? When the church teaches that the Sabbath School is organized for the study of the Bible, irrespective of age, and when fathers are found in regular attendance, the older boys will feel more at home. If, however, we are to keep our hold

on the older boys, we must recognize some other conditions that must be satisfied. The Jesuits boast, if they have the training of a child until he is ten years of age, he will never forget their teachings. There is an important truth here. Solomon said: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." This applies to the question before us. If we do our duty by the boys in the Sabbath School from the time they enter it until they are fifteen years of age, they ought to be firmly fixed in their loyalty to it. We need in the formative period of our boys' lives good teachers. It is a grievous mistake to suppose that any sort of teacher will answer for the younger scholars. From the infant class upwards, let them have the very best training available.

But a good teacher is of special importance when the boys have come to be the older boys. A good teacher, full of love, of sympathy, apt to teach, and having an interest in the welfare of the boys will be a great assistance. When boys realize that their teacher has a real interest in them, that he is working unselfishly for their good, and that he has himself a strong grip upon truth, they will be more likely to attend.

Another help in the solution of this problem is a course of lessons that will appeal to the older boys as work worthy of young men; in a word, a course of advanced studies.

Boys after having attended the Sunday School for ten years ought to have a good general idea of the Bible. They are now ready to study the book more particularly. To meet this want, courses of study have been provided, and some of these could be selected as suitable for our older boys. If this idea of graded studies be wisely carried out, it will help to make our older boys feel at home in the Sabbath School.

Hemmingford, Que.

Enclosed find our Children's Day contribution from the Sabbath School. A year ago we were helped by the papers sent us, and this year we are glad to send \$3.25, to assist other needy schools.