

and signed by a class of boys in a Winnipeg Sunday School, was read. They had been left without a teacher for a few Sundays, and, feeling aggrieved, stopped the Secretary as he was passing their class, and said to him, "See here, we want to send in a petition for a teacher, to be read by our minister from the pulpit until we get one, and we want you to help us out." So the Secretary took down at their dictation the following :

Sunday, Dec. 29th, 1912.

We, the undersigned members of ——— Presbyterian Sunday School, want a good male teacher to come here every Sunday afternoon at 2.15 and take charge of our

class. We want one who will stay with the job, or provide a substitute on any Sunday that he cannot be present himself.

Willie Henderson	Freu Gray
H. A. Campbell	James Partridge
Milton Johnson	

When the petition was read from the pulpit, a teacher was soon forthcoming. One who heard it read remarked : "If I were free on Sundays I would walk miles to teach such a class."

This little incident appealed to me very much and I thought I would pass it on to you to use if you thought it worth while in any way you wished.

John W. Little
Shoal Lake, Man.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

It was a little girl, in a country church, who said to her mother, one summer Sunday afternoon, when she saw in the pulpit one of the strangers who had come to preach during the pastor's holiday time : "Well, next Sunday, Mr. ——— will be back again, and we won't be having any more miscellaneous preachers."

Behind this saying of the child lay a beautiful sense of proprietorship. The church was her church ; the minister was her minister ; the service was her service. Surely this claim cannot be disputed. For it was the Master of us all who set a little child in the midst of His disciples and declared that the child spirit was the spirit of His kingdom. And there is no place with which that spirit is more in keeping than God's house, and no time that calls for it more authoritatively than the hour of common prayer and praise and listening to the Word. The right of the child to a place and a share in the church service rests upon the surest of all foundations.

There is just as little doubt concerning the child's enjoyment of the church service. Children like going to church. This may be laid down almost as an axiom. If there are exceptions to the rule, it is pretty safe to say that the blame does not rest upon the child. To be dressed in fresh Sunday clothes and to share the company of the grown-ups and

join in their occupation,—to what child do these not bring delight ? And, besides, there is something in the very atmosphere of a beautiful and reverent church service that appeals to the childish soul. For it was not without reason that Wordsworth wrote : "Heaven lies about us in our infancy." No one is more at home in the place where God reveals this presence than the little child.

And the gain to the child in attending the church service ! The quickness with which impressions are received and the tenacity with which they are retained by the childish mind and heart are mighty arguments. It is robbing—the word is not too strong—robbing the child, to deprive him of the opportunity, during the plastic days of childhood, of the impressions which the public worship of the church is fitted—and uniquely fitted—to produce.

Much is being said about the absence of children from the church services. Once more let it be affirmed, that the responsibility for that absence is not the children's. Whose is it ? And how should it be met ?

Getting the Standard Home

By Rev. R. T. Cockburn, Ph.B.

Spurgeon advised his students to select fat texts during their ministry. Those who