

being most cheerfully admitted, that those who give themselves up to this work are doing a service which is of the first importance. No culture is too extensive, no knowledge too thorough for the teacher of Christian doctrine. The office may well call forth the endeavors of the best of our Church members. "To gather a class of boys and girls and hold their attention, week by week, to the great theme of religion is a task which an angel might covet."

The question that sometimes presses itself upon one is, how far the Sabbath School is realizing the ideal held up for it. Does it impart that instruction in exact spiritual knowledge, which is needful for full Christian training? The teacher in the day school is convinced that a certain amount of definite knowledge must be imparted to the pupil. The scholar's equipment is to include the ability to write, read, cipher and know facts of geography and history, etc. There is a daily drill in this acquisition of exact facts; and, to counteract any danger of indolence, examinations are held at the conclusion of the term, when the results of the session are brought to a focus, and the store of knowledge measured by a severe test in writing. The conviction is sometimes forced home that in this matter, the Church school does not compare favorably with the day school. It used to be said concerning the religious mysteries of Greece, "that their object was not to teach anything, but to produce an impression on the religious feelings and imagination." The same might be laid as a ground of complaint against the method of work in the Sabbath School, where the impression or feeling is often regarded as more important than the teaching of knowledge.

Religious facts are absolutely necessary for the success and happiness of the Christian life. They are the foundation upon which the structure of thought and practice is built, they are the walls of defence to form a refuge against the attacks that are made upon the faith, and they are the clear path which will guide the wandering traveller to the city of God. To have a mind well

equipped with accurate information on the main doctrines of Christianity, and to have stedfast knowledge of the principles of the Word of God, is the best preparation for that time, when doubt or scepticism or temptation comes to those who are trying to live the life of faith. Here, as in all other concerns, we must realize that knowledge is power.

The Bible is, of course, the text-book out of which the facts are to be drawn, as it is the source of spiritual wisdom for which there can never be any substitute. But the Bible is so exceeding broad, that in order to its wise study, it must be taught by a selective method. The Scriptures cover many hundreds of years of history, and deal with peoples of different nationalities and culture; so that to be fully acquainted with all the parts of the Bible is the strenuous task of a life-time. Even after years of closest examination of the Sacred Book, men are ready to acknowledge how much there yet remains of fresh beauty and unexplored knowledge. Hence, in the meagre time at the disposal of the teacher, a choice of parts must be made, lest in the magnitude of the subject nothing definite is learnt.

It might be well for the teacher each quarter to take a survey of that section of Scripture which is to be studied, so that the salient features, leading facts and most striking verses in the passages may be selected, upon which a constant drill may be given from week to week. For this purpose a good text-book on Bible History would be of considerable service. If in this, and similar ways, attention is paid to the teaching of definite knowledge, the result will be that, when the time comes for the pupil to leave the school, the mind will be a store-house of spiritual truth, and a mansion for the holiest of thoughts. The pupil will know in general the structure of the Word of God, and be able to pass a creditable examination on the course of Bible history. He will have a considerable amount of Scripture committed to memory, more especially those parts that best reveal the teachings of Jesus Christ. Thus the scholars will go forth into