

struction.' They also say :—'It is not the original, nor is it the proper province of the Sunday School, to be the educational agent of the children of christian families. So far as it has the effect to diminish parental instruction, or to separate parents and children, the Sunday School interferes with the institutions of Heaven, and all concerned will suffer loss. We may be told how large a proportion of those who become members of our churches were members of our Sunday Schools ; but the inference and the argument derived from this applies of course to those whom the Sunday School was the means of bringing under religious influence out of neglected and destitute conditions. Let us keep this before the minds of all who labour in the Sunday School, that their appropriate work is to extend religious instruction to those who otherwise would not enjoy such advantages as the Sunday School will provide.' We should rejoice to see christian parents everywhere giving religious instruction to their children, in such a manner and to such a degree as to leave all who can be Sunday School Teachers to do strictly a missionary work. Our nation and the Church of God needs nothing more at the present time than a revival of family religion—the heart of the fathers to be turned to their children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, as God declared should be done in preparation for the coming of Christ." There is much danger of falling into error in relation to the extent of the destitution with which we are surrounded ; a correct knowledge of which might lead us more fully to appreciate the value and importance of the Sunday School in its missionary work. Some time since measures were taken to ascertain the number of uncared-for children in the city of New York, and, to the great surprise of many, there were found to be in that city 50,000 who were not reached by the Sunday School. In the State of Connecticut, where there is an average of over four Sunday Schools to every town, large and small, statistics show, that, while there are 64,000 children in their Sunday Schools, there are 65,000 who are destitute of Sunday School instruction. An effort has recently been made in this city with a view to ascertain how many there are of a Sunday School age, who are not Catholics and not connected with the Sunday School, and it is believed that there are over 2000 of this class of persons in our midst. The children of any nominal christian community are of two classes. This division however, is made by the different circumstances in which these are placed. For the religious training of one class God has made ample provision, by giving them to parents who are his children. These parents are not, and never have been ignorant of the mind and will of God in relation to these children. The directions and examples in the Word of God on this point are plainly and unmistakeably addressed to the parent, and not to the Sunday School Teacher. Such passages as