

larly and make themselves acquainted with the cause of such irregularity. This would often remove false impressions from the mind of the teacher. Irregularity of attendance often arises from carelessness on the part of parents. A few words of counsel spoken at the right time and in the right way will almost invariably bring the parents to see their duty to send their children to the Sabbath School.

The reason why others do not attend regularly is that they have formed an aversion to going to the school. Their companions have treated them disrespectfully, or, as is often the case, they imagine that they have been so treated. This is, I fear, too true in respect to the children of the poor. I knew two boys, the sons of a poor farmer, who gave up going to Sabbath School for a time because the son of one of the teachers passed some ludicrous remarks about their persons. Teachers cannot be too careful in watching the conduct of the forward and restraining it, and must endeavor to lead the timid and sensitive to forget themselves. And this can only be done by bringing them to realize that you love them and desire their temporal and eternal welfare.

Irregularity is often caused by the uninviting appearance of our school rooms. They are not attractive enough. The basements of some of our churches, with their low ceilings, small windows and rows of pillars, are fitted only for coal cellars. If children are to be enticed to attend Sabbath School regularly we must give them surroundings suitable to their lively and cheerful natures. They need plenty of air and sunshine. Let the room be airy, the teacher cheerful, the service lively, the cards, papers and books plentiful and of an interesting and instructive nature (for I believe we lose much by not having plenty of reading matter), and then the children will be longing for the return of the Sabbath as they long for the return of a festival or for the return of spring with its balmy air and sweetly scented flowers.

The third and last point of weakness that I shall mention, and one that causes us much sorrow, is *the desertion of many of our older scholars*. It seems to be the prevailing opinion among grown up people that the Sabbath School is a place for children only. What has given rise to that erroneous impression is hard to say. Very often people put day schools and Sabbath Schools on the same level. But the object of the Sabbath School is higher and worthier of the respect and sympathy of grown up people than