

youth. Statistics compiled in the United States show that 85% of the additions to the churches come from the membership of the Sunday School.

Now of course that cannot all be credited to the Sunday School as apart from the church, but it shows the class from which recruits for the kingdom are secured.

If a man in business found that a large portion of his profits was derived from one department, would he not exercise himself specially to develop that section and to maintain its efficiency; but what do we see the churches doing in relation to its work?

If we look at the money expended in the building of suitable edifices and the furnishing of them, we find that three-fourths, if not more, of the expense is made in connection with the preaching services and for the benefit of adults. When we look at the education of the religious teachers, we find the same great disparity.

Now, when it is so universally admitted, that the impressions of youth are more lasting, that the minds and hearts of children are more susceptible to holy influences, should not more effort be made during this period of life? It has been well stated by Mr. Gladstone, that "forming" was a greater work than "reforming." Is it not, therefore, as important work to so guide a child that he may never wander from the fold as it is to win back one who has gone astray?

Some years ago during revival services in a city in one of the United States, many children were brought to the Master; but during the same meetings the Governor of the State was converted. The newspapers and the community at large regarded the conversion of the Governor as a most notable thing and much was said about it, and certainly it was an event worth noting and rejoicing over, but the Governor died two or three years after and no doubt went to be with the redeemed. Little notice however, was taken of the numbers of children who at that time found the Saviour; but among them was one little fellow who is now doing a great and glorious work for the Master as a Foreign Missionary. We have no right to judge or make comparisons, but have we not some reason to believe that the conversion of that little fellow was at least of equal importance with that of the Governor?

Have we not also in God's Word strong reason for believing that our Master regards with special favor the little ones? Has He not declared "That of such is the kingdom of heaven."