

future extension and activity of the church. The history of Missions reflects a strong light on the influence in that particular direction of the Sabbath School. In every school there ought to be a Missionary map; and how desirable that such a chart were accompanied with a small treatise, presenting a complete view of the history and condition of the Mission work at each separate locality—compiled with special adaptation to Sabbath Schools.

It is gratifying to find that the Shorter Catechism is so extensively used. The Edinburgh series of Scripture lessons is highly commendable. It is hoped that such schools as have not yet adopted them will be induced to make a trial of the advantages of these excellent methods of instruction. They are cheap and accessible. Your committee may take an opportunity on a future occasion of maturing an opinion on the subject of Text-Books.

Your committee are impressed by the magnitude and importance of this department of christian duty. The efforts hitherto put forth are far from being adequate to the demands of the field. It is startling to find that so large a proportion of our youth is not under the salutary influence of the Sabbath School. It would relieve our anxiety if we could persuade ourselves that parents are assiduous in the discharge of their moral obligations at home; but the sad "indifference" they manifest in reference to these valuable institutions is by no means an assuring indication. Happy for us if the good old domestic piety of Scotland were conspicuous in all our households—when on a quiet Sabbath eve the father would collect with patriarchal gravity his children around him, to catechise, to exhort, and to pray! With all its utility, the Sabbath School can never take the place of the family circle in the moral training of the young. The latter is God's own school. Its influence is supreme. It is there—in the immediate range of a parental rule and a parent's example—that a moral power is at work which tends more than any other element on earth to mould the character of our little ones for time and eternity. O that parents were alive to the greatness of their responsibility! Pious homes are the root of a natural moral grandeur and felicity! In the rural districts the establishment of a Sabbath School at a select central point would be a blessing to a neighborhood. In such localities the population is usually of a mixed character; and any church would be able to attract within the pale of her ordinances the children of families who have no religious habits or connections of any kind. This offers a fine opportunity for aggressive action.

Upon the whole, your committee feel that there is a loud call for diligence, resolution, and prayer that God would pour out His Spirit for the revival of our borders.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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