

I would like to read to you here what Mrs. Kennedy says : "Between the unhealthy hot-bed forcing of a modern Primary Department and the cold storage refrigerator of the higher department, children between nine and twelve should be kept in an equable temperature, in which the moral and spiritual thermometer is carefully adjusted to this vital stage of their growth." In other words, we have had in our Primary Department to force children unnaturally, because there has been no preparation for them outside of the Primary Department. She also says : "If the great wide world of the main school chills a child, the Primary Department cramps him." Then there should be preparation for receiving these children who are nine years old. That should be a distinct thing from the Primary Department, but not radically different. I believe, that day when children from five years old receive some kind of promotion when leaving the kindergarten and joining the Primary Department, and if the primary children receive a diploma when leaving the Primary Department and joining the Junior, we shall find a very decided raising of the interest and strengthening of the cords with the home side. Since the day when we commenced to have our Graduation Services held in the Church on a Sunday morning, the interest has increased amazingly. When you can think what it must mean to the homes to have our four pastors, our twenty elders and our six superintendents stand to receive those who are to receive the honors of the day, you can understand it means a great deal to the fathers and mothers. The Superintendent has written a personal letter in his own handwriting, and that has been sent to every father and mother whose child was to graduate, and as a result of this one woman said : "When I received the letter I thought it was an invitation to a wedding, and my husband has not been inside of a church for twenty years, but he said, I will be there. Didn't you see him right on the front seat in the gallery?"

Imagine the honor of having the whole Church give a session to such an exercise.

One boy said : "Will our diplomas be tied with ribbons like the High School scholars?"

Another said : "Will our Bibles have limp edges like the Minister's?"

I can see that perhaps that might not be done in all the churches, but every time the Church can put its hand of approval on any act of the School, so much the School is raised in the estimation of the world. (Hear, hear).

All this demands better teachers ; it will require that teachers shall stay in a grade ; the teacher who teaches little children will acquire skill in teaching little children ; the primary teacher will acquire skill to meet age difficulties between the ages of six and nine ; the junior teachers must learn those peculiar difficulties that come from nine to twelve ; then our boys and girls of fourteen and sixteen when