

# NOVA SCOTIA

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*"Ad profectum sacrosanctæ matris ecclesiæ et studii"*

### SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

THE communication of our correspondent "S. M. C.," which recommends interesting the children of the Sunday Schools in the D. C. S., suggested to us the idea of making a few remarks upon Sunday Schools. Our object in doing this is not to offer any peculiar ideas of our own, but simply to endeavor to raise a discussion upon this most important and practical subject. One of the chief aims of the "Church Chronicle" is to afford an opportunity to the members of our Church of freely interchanging their sentiments upon the various questions which interest us as Churchmen. Separated by distance and other causes, our clergy and leading laity have few opportunities of meeting for the purpose of profiting by the experience, or being assisted by the counsel, of their brethren. In England, Church meetings and Church congresses are intended in some degree to supply a means of advising together. As we cannot attempt (or rather as we have not yet attempted) anything of that kind, it might not be useless to adopt the only other means available and discuss questions of interest through the columns of a periodical.

It is probable that nearly every clergyman, superintendent, or teacher who is earnest about the welfare of his Sunday School or Class, has adopted some plan of his own to forward his work; could these be made known many valuable hints would doubtless be thrown out, and much practical information afforded.

The great object of a Sunday School is to give children a religious training. We begin with this truism as it will afford a common ground on which all can stand; but then comes the question: What sort of a religious training should be given in the Schools of our Church? And here different opinions may be held. The questions arise: Is it to be simply an education in the facts of Bible history and in the terms of certain doctrines, leaving the personal application of them to riper years? or are the two always to go hand in hand? and if so, how is there to be preserved a healthy tone? is this teaching of personal religion, a tone suitable to children?

Then, again, how far are we to interpret a "religious training" to mean a "Church training."

We have heard it said, that of all denominations Churchmen, taking them generally, are least able to defend their own opinions. If this be the case, and that to some extent it is so can scarcely be denied, the fault must, in a great degree, be in the Sunday Schools. That it is an undesirable state of things all will agree, and therefore we would look to all to offer suggestions for a remedy.

The great matter, whatever style of teaching may be adopted, must be to have some fixed and definite plan upon which it is to be carried out. In very small