

Slaughter, or Train?

They have a queer problem in Natal, South Africa. A big herd of wild elephants infests a certain district, making great mischief for the scattered near-by farmers, and endangering life as well as property. The question is, shall the elephants be slaughtered, or trained and put to work?

The problem bears a curious resemblance to one of the weighty problems of social welfare: What shall be done with the unruly boy; fine and imprison him, or teach and train him?

The answer, in the case of both elephant and boy, would seem to be inevitable. The true economy, in the one case, as in the other, is to train and utilize, rather than merely to suppress.

The former is what Sunday School and Y.P.S. and Y.M.C.A. workers, and especially the Big Brother Movement, are trying to do,—get hold of the bad boy—bad, usually, for want of teaching and care—and reclaim him for a wholesome life of useful work and service.

Unrest and Its Cure

The fact of unrest meets one everywhere. It is the outstanding feature of the times. This is not to be wondered at. It would be surprising if the tremendous upheaval of the War had not left this legacy. There was not an institution of civilization which was not moved to its very foundation by the shock of that great conflict. Criticism of existing conditions—social, industrial, political and religious—was inevitable, and, so long as such criticism is reasonable and constructive, it is not to be condemned but welcomed.

No thoughtful person, however, could desire that the present state of things should become permanent. There are problems in every department of our life which clamantly demand to be solved. These must be faced courageously and dealt with in no superficial fashion. They must receive the most thorough going treatment. But all must long for a speedy solution which will establish, on an enduring basis, peace and harmony amongst all classes.

Such a solution is possible only through a recognition, by individuals and by society, of the principles contained in the injunction to his people, of the Old Testament prophet, "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." When people are guided in their dealings with one another by justice and good will, and walk in the fear of God, then only will there be an end to bitterness and strife.

It is the opportunity of the Sunday School to inculcate these great principles upon the minds of our coming citizens during the most impressionable period of their lives. Every faithful teacher is contributing, in no small measure, to the cure of the unrest which now so greatly disturbs all civilized countries.

Where There Is No Sunday School

The isolated homes,—and there are multitudes of them, especially on the prairies and amongst the mountains of Western Canada—are regarded with much solicitude by all those interested in the religious education of the young. Such homes are so far from any Sunday School that the attendance of the children is quite impossible.

These homes should not, however, count themselves out of the Sunday School constituency. The Home Department is designed and fitted to meet just such needs as theirs. Under the Department, the lesson study and worship may be carried on in a single home or in little groups of homes in much the same way as in a regular Sunday School.

In several Presbyteries in the West, vigorous, and, on the whole, remarkably successful efforts are being made to bring the benefits of the Home Department to those lonely homes, which so readily excite the sympathy of every Christian heart.

Cold Weather Small Attendance

January, February and March are three disheartening months for teachers in many of our Sunday Schools. The cold and the snow, especially in many country places, reduce attendance,