

—I took to the work early—I may say to-night that I have labored in this portion of the vineyard for the last fifty years ; though often tired in the labor, yet never tired of it ; and it is my resolve as long as the Master gives me health and strength, and as long as the Church recognizes her need of my help, that help shall be given, and my service shall be rendered to the Master. (Applause.) I recognize it as one of the highest honors which can be conferred on man, that he have the opportunity of laying his hands on young immortals, and leaving on them an impress which shall be for them a benefit, and for the glory of our Father and the interest of our Saviour. I can look back on the last fifty years and mark the progress ; yet, surely the shadow has not been still, it has been progressing ; and hearing the lecture yesterday evening at which my honored friend, the Rev. Mr. Murray, presided, I was led to doubt some of the deductions that were drawn from that lecture. The lecture was styled “The Literature of the Present Day and its Phases,” something of that character ; and it was stated that the literature of the present day was stamped with doubt, that that was the leading characteristic of the present day. Surely I thought the lecturer cannot be in Sabbath School fields ; he cannot have recognized the literature of the Sabbath School. Can it be that a man in this century ignores the existence of such literature as we have in our Sabbath Schools, and the effect it is having over the world. There are narrow channels where literature runs, and which may be stigmatized as the channel of doubt ; but it is not in an assembly like this, and it is not in Christendom generally. No, my friends ; never was, I believe, the Christian public so firmly convinced that their Christianity was for the benefit of the world, and if they had shadows of doubt about it fifty years ago, all those shadows are gone, and we trust they are gone for ever. When I was young, in the workshop, the religion of doubt was the religion of the mechanic. You could not go into any of the large establishments either in Liverpool or Manchester—those great centres of mechanical industries—if you had any degree of Christianity about you, without having the finger of scorn pointed at you from one end to the other ; but those days have gone by. Doubt had its channel, and it was a polluted channel ; doubt of the present day is choosing another channel into which it runs, oftentimes in the literature, which is very enticing and attractive to thinking and progressive minds ; but we say the great mass of the literature of the present day is in the direction of an acknowledged fact, that the world has been redeemed, and that the world is to be given to our Christ, that He shall reign until He has put all enemies under His feet, that the religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is to permeate our world from one end to the other, and the management of our Sabbath Schools is recognizing the need of training up minds to that end. One hundred and twenty years ago on this continent there was not a religious newspaper ; one hundred and twenty years ago