

traying what the S. School was and has been in the long past—the past position of its work—but this is unnecessary. Thank God it is past, and that we have lived to see a better state of things.

Coming yet nearer to our day, in the majority of schools there was but little system, little study of what was to be taught, no specified lesson for the entire school, no reviewing—I need not tell you, there was no schemes of lessons for all the schools of the land. Here again there were honourable exceptions, such as the work of the London S. S. Union, with its annually published scheme and notes on the lessons, but in Canada it was not until 1857 that any decided and extended change took place. The first step towards a change in the state and character of Sunday Schools, to any extent, took its rise in the first Convention of S. S. teachers, held in Kingston in 1857, twenty years ago, but even this was partial to what has been the result of the operations of the S. S. Association of Canada, organized eight years after.

Since 1865 the position of S. School work has very steadily changed. In many places the S. School has been lifted up from the underground basement, or removed from the dingy apartment, or carried out from the pews, to pursue its work in suitable and inviting premises. The lessons in their selection, study, and preparation and teaching, and the helps provided for the same, manifest thought, prayer, and intelligence, to a large extent, and in this respect progress has not been more rapid and extensive in any branch of christian work.

Thus the present position of S. S. work is thankfully acknowledged in the aim which is constantly presented to the teacher and the object sought by the many, the really bringing the scholars to Jesus, their Saviour.

It is now, that S. S. work is for the conversion of the scholars to God, the building them up in the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. Now S. School work is building into the church of the living God living stones; and supplying it with its most devoted and intelligent workers. Far be it from me to think or say that all is as it should be. I would not boast, but giving God all the glory for what has been gained, I would regard it as an incentive and earnest for the future.

The present position, or character and the state of the S. S. work is, that it is the work that is occupying more thought and effort, more study and intelligence than it ever has done, that it