

tribute to the memory of his own Sunday-school teacher, a rough uncultured man, but one from whose face shone "a light that never was on land or sea." Next to his father and mother, said Professor Hamill, he owed all that had come to him of sweetness and strength in this life to the personality of his old Sunday-school teacher.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Mr. M. C. Hazard, Ph.D. (U.S.A.), read a paper on this subject. He observed that the Home Department commended itself as being simple, easy to work, and very productive in its results. In it everything centred around the pledge. It asked of those who were not connected with the Sunday School, either because they could not go, or did not wish to go, a pledge, written or verbal, that they would study the lesson at home for at least a half-hour each week, and keep a record of their work. It was for the securing of this pledge that the Home Department was formed.

Now it was a very simple thing to solicit people to make such a pledge as that, and through the Home Department, many who heretofore had been mere spectators had become active workers in the Lord's vineyard. That fact alone would justify its existence. Thousands would readily pledge themselves to study for a half-hour each week who would peremptorily refuse if more were demanded. A half-hour seemed such an inconsiderable portion of time to give to a matter so confessedly important, that for very shame of declining, thousands upon thousands would agree to make the pledge.

And experience had clearly proved, that a pledge to devote a half-hour each week in almost every case meant much more. It is almost impossible to master the lesson in a half-hour. Questions were started during that half-hour which would take other half-hours to settle, and before he was aware of it the Home Department student was eagerly investigating. And so some day he dropped into a Bible-class, taking a back seat but keeping his ears open.

How and by whom should that pledge to study be obtained? The answer to that would disclose the whole matter of organization, and that likewise was a very simple thing. A man

or woman, and in almost all cases a woman, was given a district to visit to secure pledges. That person was called a visitor. There were as many visitors as there were districts to be visited.

The object of the visitor should be to get thoroughly acquainted with, and to establish familiar and friendly relations with, all the people in her district, confining herself, of course, to those of her own denomination and to those of no denomination. It was her duty, first to secure the pledge of study, then supply the same Lesson Helps which were studied in the school; next to call at the end of the quarter to give out new Helps and to receive the report of study and whatever offerings each student has felt inclined to make towards those causes to which the school contributes. The Home Department was a movement for—

Bible Study Extension.—It enlarged the Sunday School to the size of the parish. It enlisted the individual and enrolled him along with the millions of others who were engaged in searching the Scriptures.

Some one felicitously called the Home Department a Pastor's Aid Society. It was so because the visitors are on the look-out for information which would be serviceable to him. In order to accomplish the most for his parish the pastor should visit it. A visiting pastor, if he was of the right sort, made a church-attending congregation.

But how shall he visit with the best advantage? The Home Department visitors could furnish him with just the information he needed. They could report to him any who were sick, who had a grievance, real or fancied, who were in affliction, who were suffering from poverty, or who desired to be talked with on the subject of their salvation. Not a pastor would be without the Home Department if he knew of how much service it could be to him.

The Home Department, therefore, commended itself, first, because it extends the study of the Bible into the home and throughout the parish; second, because it effectively and continuously aids to build up the church; and, third, because it is a constant and exceedingly useful ally of the pastor. Any Sunday School or church which does not adopt it fails to make use of that which would be greatly for its benefit.