

gently, patiently and prayerfully. Go to work in the strength of God, and success is certain. If you are invited by the minister to undertake the work do not shirk it. Grapple bravely with duty, and it will soon become most delightful to you. We have never yet known any one express regret for the time he had spent in Sabbath School either as teacher or pupil. The testimony of our own experience is that in the work of teaching we have spent the happiest hours of our life. You cannot teach well all at once; but you will find the work easier and more delightful every succeeding week.

The Presbyterian Church owes it to the rising generation to bring them up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." It is thus that our youth will be kept from falling into one or other of the manifold errors and heresies of the age. Fill their heads with sound doctrine and their hearts with Christ's love, and then they cannot fail to be victors in life's great battle. As Presbyterians, we should teach our youth the scripture authority for our church order and the doctrines which we believe. These things are important and not to be neglected. But the chief end of Sabbath School teaching is to bring the children to the loving arms of Him who said—"Suffer the little children and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

It is unspeakable cruelty to those who are within reach of our influence to leave them in ignorance of the blessed Saviour. Teacher! have you done, are you doing, all you can to save souls?

We should be ever careful what sort of books we place in the hands of children. Much of the so-called Sabbath School literature of the day is unmitigated trash far worse than useless. Let the Library however small be well selected. Do not be so anxious to get many books, as to be certain that those you have are of the right sort. There are books that are too dear at any price, and your best plan is to have nothing to do with them. But good books are abundant and reasonably cheap, and there is all the less excuse for patronizing bad ones.

### THE MINISTER'S WORK.

The following extract is from a sermon on Isaiah lii. 17, by Rev. JAMES WATSON, New Annan. The sermon was published at the request of the Presbytery of Tatumagouche:—

"*Preaching is the grand work of the minister of the gospel.* In the text, it is again and again referred to. He brings good tidings—publishes peace—brings good tidings of good—publishes salvation—and says unto Zion or the church, Thy God—thy King—King Jesus—reigneth. What are all these, but so many different modes of saying, he preaches the gospel? How like are these phrases to the language in which the gospel was announced by the angel to the shepherds: "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to you and to all people." The one communication seems to be a transcript, or rather an echo of the other. But to place this beyond all doubt, Paul uses the very phraseology which we use. How does he quote the text; is it not thus: "How beautiful are the feet of them that *preach the gospel!*"—Paul, then, considers the whole passage as referring to the preaching of the gospel, and so do we.

Now, we have said that preaching is the *grand work* of the faithful gospel minister; and on this ground we wish to take a high and firm stand. We wish to say, it is the most useful and most important work of a minister. We wish to say that every other work, no matter what it may be, must give place to this. We wish to affirm and maintain, this is the strong light in which it is presented to us in scripture; and this is the doctrine taught us by Christ and his apostles. We know that some hold out that visiting from house to house, and particularly visiting the sick, attending funerals and similar duties, will do more good than studying out sermons. We know that others assert, prayer-meetings are of greater utility than preaching the gospel; and that, come of his sermons what may, the faithful minister must not forget the prayer-meeting. We know that others still, attribute a like efficacy to Sabbath schools, Bible classes, and the general instruction of the young. Most certainly we admit, that all these are important duties and institutions; we acknowledge that they are excellent,—and if you will—necessary, means for drawing out men to hear the gospel preached. In this light, we say, let them have all praise, all honor, and all attention given them. But if any man put these in the room of preaching; if any man affirm that these are more efficacious to the saving of souls than preaching; if any man assert that they are of greater use in the church than preaching;