

RELATION OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
TO THE CHURCH

(By Rev. S. G. Hilyard, B. A.)

The Sunday School is related to the Church in many ways, but especially is it related as an educational function. One of the primary functions of the Church is that of teaching; therefore the Sunday School can help in teaching the Word. We have this exhortation in Deut. 6:6-7, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." The Hebrews obeyed this command not only in the home, but by systematic instructors through appointed teachers. In the reign of Jehoshaphat the princes, Levites and priests "went about throughout all the cities of Judah and taught among the people."

As a missionary agency it is unexcelled. The Sunday School is the forerunner of the congregation. The Sunday School has made room for the layman and affords opportunity for the exercise of this gifts.

John Bright said, "I believe that there is no field of labour, no field of Christian benevolence, which has yielded a greater harvest to our national interests and national character than the great institution of the Sunday School."

Prof. G. W. Richards, D. D., once said, "There is a modest school which has no commencements. Its faculty has no titles. Its pupils have no renown. Sometimes it is despised and rejected of men. Yet in the members, the quality and influence of its alumni, co-extensive with the globe, it yields the palm to none. When the Book of Life is read, when the mysterious forces that make for character are revealed, when the guilt influence of personality is discerned, then we shall not do homage to the classic halls of the university, not to the schoolhouse on the hill, but to the little Sunday School around the corner."

The Sunday School has the great work of teaching the youth, the balancing up in character-building. We want them to know that the Ten Commandments are quite as important as the ten digits, and the formation of character as the formation of characters. We want them to feel that a lie is worse than Latin misconstrued, and bad associations worse than bad English, and manslaughter a little worse than murdering the king's English. We want them to be convinced that there are some things pure beside right angles, and some things vulgar besides vulgar fractions.

The lack of interest manifested, by the majority of church going people, in the Sunday School is deplorable. So few professed followers of Christ attend the Sunday School that the Superintendent is in a difficult position when he or she undertakes to man the classes with saved teachers. I know many a man and woman who never came into the Sunday School room, and did not know what was the name of the Sunday School teacher of their children. They were committing their children, for the molding of their character, to absolute strangers, about whom they knew nothing.

The pastor must be reminded that he has no larger and more hopeful field for his activities than the Sunday School, that here is the open door, and a harvest for his immediate harvesting, and fruit for his grasping. He must feel, too, that the great business of the Sunday School is not simply to give something about the dates of kings and the geography of the Holy Land, but the great business of the Sunday School is the making of holy character; and to see that it is not side-tracked from that great purpose.

The Church as a whole is never so secure

as when it is fostered by an ideal clergy. The Sunday School is never so securely progressive as when it is administered by ideal teachers. The very best of preaching will avail nothing unless we have teachers who know the truth as it is in Christ Jesus and are faithful in teaching it.

So the Sunday School and the church have such a close relationship that they cannot be separated without doing gross injury to both.

May the Sunday School boost the Church and let the Church maintain a strong Sunday School.

MY TAPESTRY

I wonder how the other side will be,
When I have finished weaving all my thread,
I cannot see the pattern nor the end,
Of this great piece of work which is for me.
I only know that I must weave with care
The colors which are given me day by day,
And make of them a fabric firm and true
Which will do service for my fellowmen.
Sometimes these colors are so dark and grey,
I doubt if there be any line or trace,
Of beauty there, but all at once there comes,
A thread of gold or fair bright blue or rose.
As deep as that at sunset after rain.
And then I know that there will always be
That one bright spot to cherish, yes, to keep,
And maybe 'gainst its ground of darker hue,
It may be beautiful.
The warp is held in place by Master hands,
The Master mind made the design for me,
If I but weave the shuttle to and fro,
And blend the colors just the best I may,
Perhaps when it is finished He will say,
" 'Tis good," and place it on the footstool at
His feet. MRS. S. A. GRAY

NOTE:—Several years ago a preacher spoke at a Sunday evening service from Job 7:6. "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." A good sister in the congregation was so impressed with the talk that she wrote, and told her sister about it. In a few weeks the preacher received the above excellent piece of poetry. It was carefully laid away; and only recently we found it among some papers, and we publish it for the benefit of our readers.—Editor.

GET SOMEWHERE

"Are you groping for a blessing,
Never getting there?
Listen to a word in season,
Get somewhere.
"Are you struggling for salvation
By your anxious prayer?
Stop your struggling, simply trust, and—
Get somewhere.
"Are you worn and heavy laden,
Pressed with many a care?
Cast your burden on the Lord, and—
Get somewhere.
"Would you know the Great Physician
Who your sickness bare?
Simply take Him at His Word, and—
Get somewhere.
"You will never know His fullness
Till you boldly dare
To commit your all to Him, and—
Get somewhere."

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.—Luther.

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

LINCOLN AND TEMPERANCE

A more astute politician than Lincoln America has not produced, and a greater temptation never came to any mere politician than came to Lincoln the day after his nomination for the presidency by the Republican National Convention, which met in the "Wigwam," in Chicago, 1860. It occurred in connection with the visit of the committee appointed by the convention to notify Lincoln of his nomination. A number of the citizens of Springfield, knowing Lincoln's total abstinence habits, and believing that he would in all probability have no liquors in the house, called upon him, and suggested that perhaps some members of the committee would be in need of some refreshment, wine, or other liquors. "I haven't any in the house," said Lincoln. "We will furnish them," said the visitors. "Gentlemen," replied Lincoln, "I cannot allow you to do what I will not do myself." Some democratic citizens, however, who felt that Springfield had been honored by the nomination, sent several baskets of wine to Lincoln's house, but he returned them, thanking the senders for their intended kindness.

After the formal ceremonies connected with the business of the committee of notification had passed, Lincoln remarked that, as an appropriate conclusion to an interview so important and interesting, he supposed good manners would require that he furnish the committee something to drink: and opening a door, he called out, "Mary! Mary!" A girl responded to the call, to whom Lincoln spoke in an undertone. In a few minutes the maid entered bearing a large tray containing several glass tumblers and a large pitcher, and placed it upon the centre table. Lincoln then arose, and gravely addressing the distinguished gentlemen, said: "Gentlemen, we must pledge our mutual healths in the most healthy beverage God has given to man. It is the only beverage I have ever used or allowed in my family, and I cannot conscientiously depart from it on the present occasion; it is pure Adam's ale from the spring." And, taking a tumbler, he touched it to his lips, and pledged them his highest respects in a cup of cold water. A few months later he started on his journey to Washington to take his seat as President of the United States.

In a number of cities his visit was honored with grand banquets at which wine was served, out of which he never partook. On one occasion, being urged to drink a glass of wine, he replied, "For thirty years I have been a temperance man, and I am too old to change." It is declared that actions speak louder than words. The cause of temperance would possibly have been victorious had the actions of all temperance men been as persistent against the liquor traffic as their utterances have been. But when men's acts and words are in accord, great is their power. Such were Abraham Lincoln's. He not only abstained from the use of intoxicating liquors, but he was bold in publicly advocating total abstinence.—David D. Thompson.

WHICH CHRIST?

A very learned man once said to a little child who believed in the Lord Jesus, "My poor little girl, you don't know whom you believe in. There have been many christs. In which of them do you believe?" "I know which one I believe in," replied the child. "I believe in the Christ who rose from the dead."—Selected.