

ted any active means being taken to urge on the work. The project although suspended will by no means be abandoned.

The *Schools* have been in full operation and strictly attended. The general improvement has been satisfactory. Although as in other schools and of every grade, there are found dull and unwilling scholars, who have a distate for study; still there will be found here as good minds and as much capacity both in comprehending their lessons and in acquiring knowledge, as will be met with in our public schools. The difficulty is not so much in deficiency in intellect, as it is in the wrong bias that has been given to this intellect by paternal neglect, evil association and bad example. It is an especial office of the Refuge to turn aside these minds from the wrong and to train them to follow the right. But as efficient to a certain extent as the school as such, may be, yet we have no faith in mere secular education for permanent reform. More than three centuries ago, in speaking of schools, the great German reformer said, "every Institution will degenerate where God's word is not in daily exercise." Without religion as a basis, nothing comparatively in our reform schools can be effected. This is not only the experience of all kindred Institutions in this country, but is acknowledged, nay, insisted on by all juvenile reformatories in Great Britain, France, Germany and Belgium. This unanimity of opinion is not the result of any special religious creed, but has been forced on the sober convictions of good men of every sect who have had experience in the matter. Without the religious element judiciously infused into every measure adopted for the reform of the young delinquent, no permanent good can be anticipated; with it, everything may be hoped for.

In hearty compliance with these convictions, special attention has been given to the religious instruction of the inmates. In the services of the *Chapel*, with few exceptions, there has been preaching on every Sabbath. Among the many who have contributed their aid in these christian exercises, and to whom our thanks are due, there have been men of the best abilities and of various denominations, but all have preached the same gospel,—the *Child's Gospel*, as it was preached in its simplicity by Him who was pre-eminently the friend of children and whose especial mission it was, to recover the fallen and to save the lost by words of love and invitation, of hope and mercy.

In this connection it is also pleasing to say, that during the past year, the *Sabbath School* has enjoyed the regular attention of a noble corps of some eighteen or twenty teachers from the city. Their self-denying labors we have reason to believe have not been without even their present reward. How many hereafter may rise up and bless them, the future history of these children's lives alone may tell. The Board feel that their services are invaluable and they have our sincerest acknowledgments of their labor of love.