

**BY-PRODUCTS OF
THE RURAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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By-Products of the Rural Sunday School by J. M. Somerndike

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J. M. SOMERNDIKE

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BY

J. M. SOMERNDIKE

Author of

"ON THE FIRING LINE WITH THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL MISSIONARY"



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

UNMEASURED VALUES..... 8

CHAPTER II

THE EXPULSIVE POWER OF THE RURAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL..... 21

CHAPTER III

COMMUNITIES REDEEMED..... 43

CHAPTER IV

HOW CHURCHES ARE DEVELOPED..... 63

CHAPTER V

TRAINING WORKERS FOR THE KINGDOM..... 83

CHAPTER VI

RECRUITS FOR THE MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY
SERVICE..... 99

CHAPTER VII

SOCIAL EFFECTS OF RURAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL
WORK..... 115

CHAPTER VIII

WAYSIDE EVANGELISM..... 133

CHAPTER IX

SUNDAY-SCHOOL EXTENSION..... 151

INTRODUCTION

INCREASING attention is being given to the Sunday school. This is due to the recognition that it has become the most important agency in the religious instruction of our youth. We do not refer to the Sunday school apart from the Church, but to the Church working through the Sunday school.

We are beginning to realize that in America both the Church and the nation must depend largely upon the Sunday school for the Christian instruction of our boys and girls, as well as for the Bible study of our adults. Earnest efforts are being made to render our Sunday schools more efficient, so that better and more abundant results may be obtained from the work done in them. Consideration, however, has thus far been given for the most part to the larger schools in our towns and cities.

It is well for us, therefore, to have our attention directed to the smaller rural schools. The majority of our Sunday schools are of this character. In many cases these schools are taking the place of churches in scattered communities. A church could not be supported, but a Sunday school can be carried on by the people themselves, and may become the center of the religious life of the neighborhood.

The opportunities for Bible study and the development of Christian character in these schools are in many ways superior to those in the larger city schools. Few of us realize how vital and far-reaching is the influence emanating from these little schools. Many of our leading pastors, prominent

church workers, missionaries, and teachers received their first spiritual impressions in Sunday schools of this nature.

Mr. Somerndike, in his book, "By-Products of the Rural Sunday School," has made a valuable contribution to our knowledge and appreciation of Sunday-school work in general, and particularly as carried on in the little country school.

No one who is interested in work of this character can fail to read this book with pleasure and a growing recognition of the important results that are being achieved. We hope that it may come into the hands of many who are living in these rural communities, that they may be encouraged to undertake such work for their neighborhoods.

We should be glad to have the attention of Christian men and women, living in towns from which nearby rural communities can be reached, directed to a method of work that yields such abundant, satisfactory and enduring results.

We feel sure that, as this book is read by large-hearted men and women interested in the religious welfare of their own land, and seeking opportunities for profitable investment of the means the Lord has intrusted to them, they will feel more than ever inclined liberally to support the Church in carrying on this vitally important service that is accomplishing so much directly and indirectly for the salvation of souls, the building up of Christian character, and the progress of Christ's kingdom.

ALEXANDER HENRY.

UNMEASURED VALUES