

pretty good proof that they enjoyed it and that they had been well trained. Mr. Thompson once more conducted, and Mr. Dales presided at the organ. One of the most hopeful things about the hymns learnt in childhood is that they are rarely forgotten, especially those of a homely and pathetic character; and they have often been the means, in later years, of bringing back to the fold of Christ, many a soul that had wandered therefrom. Among the old favourites sung at the Anniversary were "There is a happy land;" "Jesus is my Shepherd;" "Childhood's years are passing o'er us." Among the new hymns sung, some commanded special interest. In the morning service they were: "Wake the song of joy and gladness" sung in excellent time; and the Anthem: "Hark to the trumpet sounding" rendered with true martial ardour. The altos were excellent, and were especially sweet and telling in the last verse beginning "Onward Christian Soldiers." The brightness and joy which we all associate with a Sunday School Anniversary were expressed in the last hymn of the morning service "Come set the joy bells on this glad and festal day."

In the afternoon service a fitting hymn was placed first, and one which is always acceptable in the ordinary services of the church and always sung with verve and expression, not to say pathos:—"There's a glorious work before us . . . There are homes now full of sadness . . . There are wives and mothers weeping . . . There are crowds of little children (No. 959, C.H.B.)" The infants as usual had their little hymn, which they sang with their accustomed artlessness and charm:—"Little ones of God are we." This was followed by, "There is a happy land," and, "When they brought little children." The evening service commenced with hymn No. 540, "We sing our song of jubilee," followed by the well-known, "Childhood's years are passing o'er us," sung sweetly to the hymn No. 885. But the item of the evening was, "O Light everlasting," which indeed was beautifully rendered. The first four lines is a picture in itself, which appeals to the artistic as well as the musical mind.

"When sunset comes, all sweet and soft and tender,
When all the western clouds with crimson radiance
bloom,
When peak and crag are lit with parting splendour,
While all the vale below is wrapt in gathering gloom,
Be near us, Lord."

The words "soft and tender," like others requiring expression, were sung with due regard to that quality.

The solo, "O Living Light," was creditably rendered by Miss Maud Barrett, of the Sunday School Choir, and one can allow for the little nervousness shown on this occasion, when it is no easy matter to sing before an audience of 800. Miss Gladys Cope also sang a solo with sweetness and expression. These solos were followed by the singing of another word picture, "When life's last glow on earthly heights is waning, when down the vale we pass amid deep'ning night."

The sixth hymn of the evening was selected from C.H.B. No. 925: "The night is come, wherein at last we rest," and a fitting closing hymn was taken from "Choral Praise."

"Farewell, the children's day must close,
The evening shadow longer grows,

Sunday School Anniversary. 1906

June 24th, the twenty-first Anniversary which was held on the above date passed off very satisfactorily; although, probably owing to the hot weather, the Church was not so crowded as on previous occasions. All the pews, however, were occupied, and some seats were provided in the aisles. The children occupied the whole of the gallery as usual. The Rev. E. R. Edwards preached in the morning and evening in the absence of Rev. Frederick Green who had not then returned to his ministerial duties. In the afternoon the Rev. A. E. Witham conducted a special service for the children at which there was a large attendance of friends. Special hymns were selected for the occasion, among which were some well-known favourites. The quality of the singing was good throughout—in time, volume and expression. It was notable, and indeed creditable to the children, that they all entered into the singing with heartiness which is a