

time for this work. If our wills accord with His, and the right means in the right way and at the right season are employed, the work will be done. We had last evening a delightful time in connection with the subject of holiness ; but we should never forget that conversion is the greatest blessing God can give or man receive. That is the foundation of holiness and of all good. Then life is imparted, and all else is more or less rapid growth and increase. If the proper and Divinely designated seed-time of life is not only neglected, but the enemy is allowed to preoccupy the ground, and sow his tares therein, there is most serious danger of all being lost. On the other hand, when the right course is pursued, and all else is subordinated to it, we may with confidence hope for the best results.

REV. DR. W. B. POPE (Wesleyan) : I should be glad to say a few words on behalf of the principle that has been so admirably expressed this morning—the necessity of teaching in our families as well as in our Sunday-schools, our own Catechisms. Nothing could be more excellently stated than the observation of the essayist as regards the incorporation of our principles with the infancy of children, weaving them into the very tissues of their life while those tissues are being formed. What I exceedingly valued in his remarks, and shall read with great interest when they are published, and what has been touched upon again and again since, is the sacred and blessed fact that behind and around and beneath all catechetical instruction there is a specific gift of the Holy Spirit to our children sealed to them in baptism. I do not, however, rise to speak of that, but of the importance of Methodists teaching their children our Catechisms if they would retain them in their own communion. Children love a system of thought and of teaching ; and I am persuaded that if they are taught systematically to go through their catechism—that is, the doctrinal part of it first, and then that which gives them the history of Scripture itself—they will hold it fast always. I speak from experience, and an experience confirmed by that of many present when I say, that the principles, the definitions, the Scriptural proofs and the tone of the whole will abide with them through life. I venture to say that very few children who have been steeped in the Catechism, or in whom the Catechism has been steeped in early childhood, have ever left the communion that trained them in that way. Nor was it for that purpose alone that I rose. I desire to express my sense of the importance at this Œcumenical gathering of such a united revision of our several Catechisms as might tend greatly to further the unity amongst Methodists that must some day exist. We have all our Catechisms, and we have all of us been revising them. I presume there was one original ultimate Catechism upon which our various revisions have been made. The old Catechism has been amended and revised in America—I know it has been revised again and again by ourselves—and I dare say it has been revised in other communions. Now, I should like a concert, or combination, or an effective collation of these several revisions, and I should like to see one best of all revisions emerge from the whole. I speak as the representative of a small committee, the labours of which in this direction have been accepted. We have a revision of our own, which will be presented to the public in a very short time, in which we have endeavoured to expand the theology and extend the Scripture references, making it not only a Catechism proper, but also in a certain sense a handbook of the Bible. We have introduced in it the invaluable results of that revision of the New Testament which is common to America and to England. I hope the Catechism, when it is issued, will find acceptance amongst all Methodist bodies ; and if they will themselves endeavour to make some use of it in the revision of their own several Catechisms, I think the result will be one in perfect accord with the principles of this Œcumenical Conference, and a worthy monument of it.