

This fourfold increase should not be so impossible as it looks. A very considerable number of the Sabbath Schools have been using the Souvenir Century Fund Boxes. Children accumulate rapidly when they set themselves to it. It is but the gleanings, or, to use a more modern term, the "rakings" of the harvest field, but the rakings often make a fine finish to an already full mow. In some schools the boxes will be opened on Children's Day; in some, later, perhaps on the first of May next year, by which time we shall be gathering up the last bits of the Century Fund. Some, again, will open them both on Children's Day, and, finally, on the first of May. In many cases, even where the boxes have not been adopted, the scholars have been "laying up." There will be a surprising bringing forth of hard-earned and carefully-saved coins. The schools showed last year how determined they are to have their full share in the Century Fund and in all the benefit and blessing it is to be to the Church. We are persuaded that their zeal has not declined. If pastors and superintendents and teachers but give the word, the scholars are ready to do wondrously good things.

An Appropriate Prayer for a Sabbath School Teacher

By Rev. William P. Archibald, B. D.

It is found in Luke 17 : 5. It came first from the lips and from the hearts of the apostles. It is short, direct and fervent. Whatever may have been the particular occasion of it, it is the spontaneous utterance of a felt need. The apostles were brought face to face with the lofty spiritual teaching of Jesus, or they had failed in the performance of some duty, and they felt keenly their own weakness and unspirituality. What better could they do under these circumstances than confess their shortcomings, and appeal to Him who is the fountain of all grace, to supply the lack?

The incident is instructive as to the freedom of approach which the disciple has to his Lord. As a child, in the loving inter-

course of the home, comes with its wants to the parent, so can the believer come to his Saviour. Prayer is the natural language of the child of God. In danger he calls upon God to shield; in difficulty he cries for the divine help; in perplexity he looks to the infinite wisdom to lead him out of the maze, and set him in a plain path. Whatever his situation or his experience, he can draw on the divine resources. The boldest, largest petition, has its warrant in the promises of Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

The apostles, in this prayer, asked for what they needed most. Sometimes they showed themselves strangely worldly and unspiritual in their conceptions of their Master's work and kingdom. Unseemly strife for place and power lifted up its head among them. But in this petition they caught the spirit of the true disciple. They put first things first. They were to be teachers of their Master's doctrine. What needed they more than faith to receive and appreciate the truth which He taught them? They were to be workers for the advancement of their Master's kingdom. What needed they more than faith to make them steadfast in the face of opposition, and lead them on to success?

This same prayer is most necessary and appropriate for the Sabbath School teacher to-day. As the sense of the importance and responsibility of his work deepens in his soul; as difficulties and discouragements thicken around him; as he longs to impart some spiritual good to those under his care; as he applies himself to the study of his great text-book, he must feel constrained to cry, "Lord, increase my faith." Knowledge he needs; tact is a valuable possession; skill in teaching is most desirable; but inspiring and directing all, there is needed a firm and ever-growing faith in God. If the teacher has faith, his work will be full of interest, hopefulness and power; otherwise it will be a dreary, tread-mill round. The advantages of faith will be found in the study, as well in the class-room.

Faith gives *spiritual vision*. Without it,