

"Oh," said the little seed, 'it's very dark here, but I like it. It's my home. Here are all my sisters lying near me. Perhaps they will wake up soon, and then we can talk together.' Presently one and another began to wake up.

"Oh, sisters, what a delightful home we have! Here we have quiet, and warmth and moisture. I'm sure we shall be very happy in such a home. We have just what we want. We shall never leave it. But—oh, dear, I feel pains darting through me. Ah me, I begin to swell! What will become of me?"

"This is not your home. You must rise and come up into another world, another life," said a voice that seemed to be far above, overhead.

"Another world, another life!" said the little swelling seed. "Why, I can't conceive of it! To be sure, I feel myself swelling and cracking open, and I feel a desire to push upward! But I am afraid! I can't think how or what I shall be? Must I bring my shell up with me? It seems inclined to stay in the ground."

"No, leave the shell and come up yourself."

"So the little seed burst the shell, and pushed herself up; lifting up the ground and shooting up, a tall green stem, on which hung a cluster of beautiful flowers. The dew hung jewels on their leaves; the sunlight gleamed and danced upon them; the birds sang all around them; the soft winds rocked them. And the owner of the garden came out and exclaimed, 'Oh, my beautiful flower! How glad I am to see thee! I have waited for thee!' And then the flower shook her head, and bowed it in her joy, and the whole garden was filled with her fragrance. She forgot her cold, dark home in the ground."

"I see, I see," said Dora.

"Such will be your joy, dear Dora, when you rise up to the blessed home of Christ. What the dark home was to the seed, is this world to the soul; the voice calling the flower up is Jesus calling you; what that flower was in the garden, will you be in that new world above."

"I see, oh, I see! thank you. I shall be afraid no more."

The Course of Study for 1873.

We copy the following from the *Sunday-School Journal*. It is very appropriate to Ministers and Teachers in Canada:—

DEAR FELLOW-WORKERS,—On the first Sabbath in January, 1873, we shall inaugurate our New Course of Sunday-school Lessons. The series will extend through at least seven years, and will comprise the lessons of the "International Series," to be used by over five millions of Christian people.

In addition to these Lessons, our Normal Department has appointed a "supplemental" course, including "CATECHISM No. 1" of our Church, "SPECIAL BIBLE LESSONS," and the "MEMORY SERIES." The full List of Lessons, with the Golden Texts, for 1873, is hereunto annexed.

And now, dear fellow-workers, we plead with you on behalf of this new and important movement. Let the year 1873 witness the commencement of this new course of Sunday-school study in all our Churches! May we be allowed to say to the ministers:

1. Give ample notice of it from the pulpit, in the school, and in circulars sent to the homes of the Church. Explain the plan fully, so that all will understand it, and plead with parents and teachers to co-operate in carrying it out.
2. Buy a full supply of Berean Lesson Leaves, (or Question Books); of Banners for teachers and older scholars. Let the Church pay the bill in full. Order everything in ample time, so that you may be able to distribute them on the last Sabbath of each month.
3. Bring your Sunday-school teachers together for a special meeting of prayer and preparation.
4. Aim to teach the Word of God with a child-like dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Prayer for spiritual blessing upon Bible study will be answered, and the years of this new course will be years of prosperity to our Zion.