

The Lessons of the First Quarter, 1896.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up all the marginal references, and reviewing the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and answer in writing the questions on the lesson without accepting aid from any quarter after you have begun to write. If you cannot come to Sabbath school, fill out one of the "Excuses for Absence" and send it, with your written answers, to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

HIGHER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Since this number of the Quarterly will go into the hands of a great many of our scholars who have perhaps not yet heard of, or if they have heard, have but imperfectly understood, the meaning of HIGHER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION, we give once more an outline of the scheme. It consists of four departments, in each of which there are diplomas, medals and prizes awarded to successful candidates. These are open to any person, old or young, connected with our Churches and Sabbath-schools. The examinations are not competitive, that is, all who come up to the required standard receive a diploma, prize, or medal as the case may be. Each department stands by itself. You may take any one alone, or you may take more than one, and will be entitled to all the honors you may obtain in them.

Candidates are classified according to age. Those under fifteen years of age are Juniors; those fifteen but not twenty are Intermediates; and all 20 and over are Seniors. A separate paper is set for each grade, and the questions are uniform all over the church. All the examinations are held on the same day and at the same hour. You need not go from home to be examined. Papers will be sent, if you wish, to your own pastor, superintendent, or teacher, and you may be examined in your own school-room, or any other convenient place.

I. The First Department embraces the *S. S. Lessons* for 1895. If you are over 20 years of age, you must read in addition, Stalker's "Life of Jesus Christ," a small book of 140 pages and exceedingly interesting. For all under twenty years of age nothing more is required than to have studied their lessons faithfully. Should you prefer it, you may be examined at the end of each quarter, instead of in January on the work of the whole year.

Those who wish to study Stalker's "Life of Christ," only, may take the paper on it without taking that on the *S. S. Lessons*. Diplomas, (but not medals or prizes) will be given for it and scholars of any grade may enter. Could not your Bible Class, or Y. P. S. C. E. take this course?

II. The Second Department covers the first 38 questions in the *Shorter Catechism*. The text-book, Salmond's Primer, contains 85 pages, an average of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ to each question. Not a very hard task for a diligent scholar. More than this, the values attached to the answers are so arranged that in the Junior and Intermediate grades 60% of the maximum is given for writing down correctly the answers to questions in the catechism.

The General Assembly also offers a beautiful diploma to all who are able to repeat correctly the whole catechism at one recitation. This may be taken at any time during the year.

III. The Third Department covers the *History* of our mother church in Scotland. No more thrilling story has ever been told. To read it arouses loyal enthusiasm for her principles and proud thankfulness that we are sprung from such a noble lineage. The Junior text-book contains 96 pages. You could read it through in a week, if necessary, but a year spent upon it would not be lost time. The Senior text-book contains 161 pages, and if you can answer the questions at the end of each chapter you will "sweep the paper" next January.

IV. If you are good at composition, you would do well to try the *Essay*. Send for a copy of the Syllabus in order to see what kind of an Essay is required.

It would be a good idea if a number of you should form a "circle" for study, especially of the Life of Christ, the Shorter Catechism, or Scottish Church History. You would easily find some one who would be delighted to encourage you by becoming your leader. Are we asking too much? If not, show your appreciation of the efforts we are making for your welfare by preparing for the examination.

The date of next examination is January 25th, 1896.

For Question Papers and all information write to Rev. W. FARQUHARSON, Vice-Convenor, Claude, Ont.