

The Teachers Monthly

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Vol. XVII.

Toronto, December, 1911

No. 12

A Mark for 1912

The campaign for a Teacher Training Class in connection with every Sunday School, which began in October, is still going on. Teacher Training might well be made the great feature of our Sunday School progress in 1912. The success of the School depends so much on the efficiency of the teachers, and the efficiency of teachers depends so much upon thorough training, that the value of such training cannot well be overestimated.

Fortunately the equipment for Teacher Training is at hand in the First Standard Teacher Training Handbooks, sold at the nominal price of 5c. each, or 25c. for the five books bound in one volume; and in the Advanced Standard Course of eight Handbooks at 10c. each. Examinations in each of the Handbooks are held each Quarter by our General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, without cost to the candidate. The Courses cover a thorough study of the Old and New Testament and Christian Doctrine, the Teacher, the Pupil, the School, Church History and Missions.

Let a Teacher Training Class, either on Sunday or week day, be a chief feature of your School during 1912.

"John's Devil"

"Gentlemen, what was John's devil?" This was the question the late Dr. A. B. Bruce, the famous Glasgow New Testament professor used to ask, lifting his head from the manuscript of his lecture, when he came to the words of the Jews regarding John the Baptist, "He hath a devil." And his answer to his own question was: "John's devil was earnestness."

It was because he was dead in earnest that the great forerunner of Jesus made so deep

an impression upon the people of his generation, friends and foes. And he, in any day, who would greatly influence those about him must possess, in his own measure, the same quality. The Sunday School teacher who puts into his work earnestness that will not be quenched or smothered, is sure of success, whatever obstacles may lie in his path.

"Did Not Our Hearts Burn?"

By Rev. Professor James W. Falconer, B.D.

So ever have men drunk at the sweet wells that have been digged by retrospect. The two disciples who had seen Jesus on the way to Emmaus must often have recalled their former interview with Him, and perhaps they gained more lasting pleasure from the memory of it than during the actual conversation. That which the active present had hidden was revealed in the calmer survey of reflection. Events are often best explained by the revision of the past. What appeared trivial or unintelligible becomes the subject of sincere thankfulness.

So is it that the restrictions of childhood are eventually justified, and we give joyful thanks for the healthful authority exercised over us. It is thus also that we come to accept with deep gratitude the rulings of Providence. Points that were insignificant are seen to have been turning points in our lives. Time alone reveals the worth of what during the moment of execution was not understood.

Indeed it is doubtful if we appreciate the significance of any work while we are doing it. Events are symbols whose meaning we read in the new light of their consequences. There is no whistle to warn us when the great stations are being approached in life's progress. Emerson tells us that "all martyrdoms looked mean when they were suffered. Every ship