

# The Teachers Monthly

Vol. V.

MARCH, 1899

No. 3

**O**UR readers will be glad to learn that the demand for the Lesson Helps has been large, so large that we were compelled to print fresh editions of the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY and PRIMARY QUARTERLY and of both the January and the February TEACHERS MONTHLY.

Some schools order for only a quarter at a time. These are reminded of our rule that all supplies stop when the time for which they were ordered terminates. We do not continue unless so instructed. We hope to hear from all in good time, so that there will be no disappointment to teachers or scholars in not having their Lesson Helps when they need them.

We have a twofold reason for mailing almost a month in advance: (a) In order to reach the distant schools in good time; for example, in the mining towns of British Columbia, or the fishing villages of Newfoundland or the mission field in Trinidad; and (b) because many teachers like to have the Lesson Helps early that, by knowing something of the lessons that are to come, may the better teach those that are in hand.

Good understanding of a thing depends very largely on good definition, and good definition is much helped by ample illustration. A minister recently visited in the ward of a hospital a man who had been one of his boy-hearers twenty-five years before. Said the sick man to the minister: "There's one of your sermons I shall never forget. It was on faith, and I said to myself when you were done, 'I'll never need to go to the dictionary to know what faith means.'" The remark recalled to the minister's mind a sermon largely made up of illustration. It had done a work which "deeper" sermons had failed to accomplish. It had given one soul at any rate a life's knowledge of what faith in God is.

## LOVE'S LOGIC

That is unanswerable reasoning of the apostle John's, "We love Him because He first loved us," and it is unanswerable because it is of the heart.

It is a reasoning after the mind of the Spirit of God Himself; for the chief appeal of redemption is to the heart and consists in an exhibition of God's love.

Separated from God by their sin, and driven from Eden by God's own hand, that same hand held out to our first parents the loving promise of deliverance; the serpent's head would be crushed and the curse lifted. The final incident of the flood that swept the face of the earth clean of sinners was the bow in the cloud, a bow of promise. Men might trust the love that never again should so destroy. Even the granite peaks of Sinai were mellowed with the shining of Jehovah's tenderness. On tables of stone, hard and cold, God wrote with His finger the Ten Commandments, themselves stern as the stone tables, inexorably imperative in their "Thou shalt" and "Thou shalt not." But as a sweet foreword to the Commandments—at the top of the tablets—are these words, like a fountain gushing from the lofty mountain heights—"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." God's first word, even when as a mighty sovereign He is to give forth His laws, is "I love you, and in love have redeemed." He looks for obedience because He has manifested love.

None otherwise were His dealings with His people all through their sad history. A crooked and perverse nation they were. The story of their national life is chiefly a story of folly and sin, and of disaster wrought by the righteous judgment of God upon them because of their sins. But behind and through the darkest cloud of judgment was the shining of Jehovah's countenance. The last appeal of His prophets to them was always love. His way with them even in their most utter abandonment of Him was "Come now, let us reason together, saith the