

# The Teachers Monthly

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All the Lesson materials in the **TEACHERS MONTHLY** are prepared by professors, ministers, and other writers belonging to our own church, and are carefully adapted to the special needs of our own Schools.

This is in no spirit of narrowness, but because we do not know where to find more competent lesson writers, and because it is a good principle that the church's own children should be fed from its own table. Our Lesson writers for 1909 include: Rev. Prof. James W. Falconer, B.D., Presbyterian College, Halifax; Rev. James Ross, D.D., London, Ont.; Rev. P. M. MacDonald, M.A., Toronto; Rev. W. H. Smith, Ph.D., Sydney, N.S.; Rev. J. W. Macmillan, B.A., Winnipeg; Rev. A. M. Gordon, B.D., Lethbridge, Alta.; Mrs. Jessie Munro Johnston, North Bay, Ont.; and the Editors.

## The Church's Limbs

*By Rev. Prof. J. E. McFadyen, B.A. (Oxon.)*

The conception of the church as a body with members, is apprehended only very remotely in theory, and hardly at all in practice, by the average Christian church. The technical sense of the phrase "church member" has blinded us to the fact, that one who bears this name ought to be a *limb* of his church: without the service which he is fitted to render, the church is incomplete. Every member ought to perform his function—otherwise he impoverishes the life of the church—and his function is determined by his capacity.

This obligation rests upon every member: Paul suggestively says, "Those which seem relatively feeble, are necessary". This ought to be at once a consolation and an inspir-

ation to those of slender gifts. The church needs and can assimilate every variety, and every contribution tells.

And just as the mistaken humility of those who are less gifted is injurious to the church, still more so is the pride of those who are more gifted. The most fatal schism that can be introduced into any church, is created by the spirit which says, "I have no need of thee". To begin with, that is not true. Each needs every other, and "the weak are necessary". But, apart from that, the really Christian question is not, whether I have need of others, but whether they have need of me. The gifts of the mind and spirit are given, not to be selfishly hoarded, but to be used to the advantage of the church. There is room and need in the church for the best that we have and know and can do.

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## The Pleasant Task of Admiring

*By Rev. F. H. Larkin, B.A.*

The word admiration indicates a heart-response to what is external to ourselves. There is very much around us that is grand and beautiful and good. What is our manifest duty? It is to gain a proper valuation of our surroundings, to find out the things that are worth while, and then to put ourselves into sympathetic relation with them.

Nature, whether standing forth in majestic proportions, slumbering in quiet valleys under evening skies, reveling in the loveliness of many-hued gardens and fruitful fields; or covering the earth with snowy billows, commands us to admire. That was a fine impulse that led the old Scottish peasant to retire every morning to the neighboring hill