

The New Secretary

An important forward step in Sabbath School work has been taken by the General Assembly, in the appointment of Rev. John Campbell Robertson, B.D., of Milltown, N.B., as Secretary of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. Mr. Robertson was born at Robertson, Kings County, N.B., in 1868, and is therefore now in the prime of his early manhood and strength. He received a Teacher's Diploma from the Provincial Normal School, Fredericton, in 1886, and thereafter taught for six years in the New Brunswick schools. Entering McGill University, Montreal, in 1892, he was each year a scholarship man and graduated as Gold Medalist in Mathematics in 1896. In the fall of the same year he entered the Presbyterian College, Montreal, for his Theological course, and again was a scholarship man each year, and Gold Medalist at his graduation in 1899, when he also received his B.D. During his course in the Presbyterian College, Mr. Robertson was Lecturer in Mathematics in the Preparatory Department, and during the College vacations he supplied various mission fields. He was ordained to the ministry in 1899 and was appointed for two years to the mission charge of Nashwaak and Stanley in the Presbytery of St. John. His work in this field was remarkably successful. At the close of the two years he proceeded to Glasgow, Scotland, where he spent the winter of 1901-2 in the Free Church College. The following summer he studied in Marburg University, Germany, and while there, was called to Milltown, N.B., from which charge he has been called by the General Assembly to the important position mentioned above.

Mr. Robertson has shown himself to be a practical worker of much ability, and was, at the time of his appointment, Convener of the Sabbath School Committee of the St. John Presbytery.

The field for the new Secretary is very wide, as even the merest outline of his duties as defined by the General Assembly of 1903 will show. These include the development of Presbyterial and Synodical Sabbath School organizations; the aiding of Presbyteries in the formation and direction of Teachers'

Institutes, and other agencies for furthering the interests of Sabbath School work; the whole question of developing the interest in Sabbath School work among theological students, and of stimulating the liberality of Sunday Schools in regard to the missionary and other Schemes of the church, as well as the care of the clerical and office work of the various departments of the Sabbath School Committee's operations. The energy of the present Convener, Rev. Dr. Neil, and of his predecessor, Rev. Dr. Fotheringham, and the earnest work of Rev. W. W. Peck and Rev. A. Macgillivray, recent Secretaries, have laid the foundations broad and deep. Mr. Robertson's appointment will still further advance the work.

The TEACHERS MONTHLY heartily congratulates the new Secretary on his appointment. He will receive a warm welcome from fellow-workers in the Sabbath School cause throughout the whole church.

The Age of Miracles Still

By Rev. Gordon Dickie, M.A.

The notion that the age of miracles is past is all too prevalent to-day. Away in the background of our faith there is a shadow of unnatural things. We see the dead raised, the sick healed, the blind restored to sight, and the lame walking; but the picture ends there, and we have dismissed it as final. We shall never see such things again. We must now face the natural, and the natural only. There are to be no more signs nor wonders in the earth.

But why wring our hands, and mourn that the time of miracles has passed forever? Has the sun gone down upon God's day of wonders; and from henceforth shall we know nothing but the dreary monotony of the commonplace? Are the things that once were possible with God possible no longer? Nay, verily, the age of miracles has not passed. God is still as great and as good as ever. He makes His power manifest as gloriously as before, showing that He is indeed the Master of all His works.

There is a miracle that regularly takes place each year, though it comes so often that we fail to see its marvellousness,—the miracle