

## Two New Things.

Our Sunday-school had its annual festival, when "prizes" were awarded. There were within three or four of a hundred books given away. About half of the scholars received, some one, some two, of them. We have nearly five hundred books in our school library. It will plainly be seen that what are called "prizes" cannot rightly be so called for any considerable length of time under such circumstances. There is no reason to believe that our school stands alone in this abuse of the prize system. Let one and all be admonished to offer *few* prizes, and to be sure that they be such as are *prized*.

And now, the *first* new thing suggested is a new prize. Offer, on such terms as the circumstances may warrant, to place in the Sunday-school library a new book with some such record as the following on the fly-leaf or title-page:

"Earned by *perfect* attendance, recitation, and deportment, during the first quarter of the year 1873, and presented to the library, by Johnny Williams, of Horace Woodruff's class.

"EDGAR WHARTON, *Supl.*"

Thus the library will be kept continually on the increase, and the scholars will be pleased and interested in actually doing something towards increasing the usefulness of the school and the pleasure of their school-mates.

The character of the books of our Sunday-school libraries has been much discussed. Hence the *second* new thing, is a new book for the library. Make a place in the Sunday-school library for the *oldest* of books, the *best* of books, *The Book*. A number of Bibles in the library, regularly numbered, catalogued, and recorded, might be permanently loaned to such of the families of the scholars as have no Bible, or none but a large family Bible. The loaning of the Bibles from the library would keep them in sight, and might ensure both their use and their careful use. They would return to the library, too, like any other library book, when the families to which they were loaned, obtained Bibles of their own.—*S. S. World*.

## Time for Reading.

"I HAVE no time to read," is the common complaint, of those whose occupations are such as to prevent continuous book perusal. They seem to think, because they cannot devote as much attention to books as they are compelled to devote to their avocations, that they cannot read anything. But this is a great mistake. It isn't the books we finish at a sitting which always do us the most good. Those we devour at odd moments, half a dozen pages at a time, often give us more satisfaction, and are more thoroughly digested than those we make a particular effort to read. The men that have made their mark in the world have generally been the men who have in their boyhood formed the habit of reading at every available moment, whether for five minutes or five hours. It is the habit of reading, rather than the time at our command, that helps us on the road to learning. Many of the most cultivated persons, whose names have been famous as students have given only two or three hours a day to their books. If we make use of spare minutes in the midst of our work, and read a little, if but a page or a paragraph, we shall find our brains quickened and our toil lightened by just so much increased satisfaction as the book gives us. Nothing helps along the monotonous daily round so much as fresh and striking thoughts, to be considered while our hands are busy. A new thought from a new volume is like oil which reduces the friction of the machinery of life. What we remember from brief glimpses into books, often serves as a stimulus to action, and becomes one of the most precious deposits in the treasury of our own recollection. All knowledge is made up of small parts, which would seem insignificant in themselves, but which, taken together, are valuable weapons for the mind and substantial armour for the soul. "Read anything continuously," says Dr. Johnson, "and you will be learned." The odd minutes, which we are inclined to waste, if carefully availed for instruction, will, in the long run, make golden hours and golden days that we shall ever be thankful for, and praise Him who is the giver of all good.—*Scribner's for August*.