

What Constitutes a Model Sunday-school Teacher?

—ANDREW BATES.

THE question refers to a model teacher, and not the model. There has been but one Teacher whom we could designate the model; all who come after are but reflections. Nicodemus has been allowed to place this truth on record: "We know thou art a teacher sent from God."

Sometimes a great truth is presented in clearer light by being stated negatively. The book of Psalms opens with such a bugle note: "Blessed is the man that walketh *not* in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful," and we may thus answer the question put to us: Blessed is the Sunday-school teacher who walketh *not* in the counsel of his own opinions, nor standeth in the way of too many lesson helps, nor sitteth in the seat of his own judgment, but whose delight it is to reveal the spirit of truth as it is in Scriptures, and lead his class to meditate thereon day and night. Such a class will be like a spring of water rising up and flowing through the whole church, causing it to flourish.

The preacher and the teacher are not identical. A model Sunday school teacher will not be a preacher in a class, but a leader. "Come, ye children, hearken unto me, I will *teach* you the fear of the Lord;" and again, "Then will I *teach* transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

A model teacher will always be prepared with the lesson. In fact he should be one lesson ahead of his class. The committee on the International Lessons is obliged to prepare them a year ahead; is it too much to ask of a teacher a much less labour, that his scholars may be greatly benefited?

"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" A model teacher will be at his post a little ahead of his scholars that he may greet them. If obliged to be absent he will always have a substitute ready.

He will make his scholars his lesson helps, thus insuring fresh and interesting material. Lesson helps abound in illustrations; few can be found better than those drawn from the teacher's own experience.

The model teacher will require his class to furnish the questions; the answers will then reach listening ears. He will sift the lesson: much of geography, history, mathematics and even philosophy must be considered a course in reserve, necessarily shortened or omitted by the quickly passing Sunday-school hour. "The kingdom of heaven cometh not with observation." He will find and make prominent a central thought embodied in the lesson. This always is—the Christ how manifested?

A model teacher will apply the lesson, first generally, then particularly. "The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel expressly."

It is needless to add, a model teacher will be attentive. This does not exclusively mean attentive to general exercises, but attentive to his class. Many times a teacher has been noticed intent upon what the superintendent was doing or saying, while the class was amusing itself or causing a disturbance. The secret of an orderly Sunday-school session will never be discovered until each teacher constitutes himself a superintendent over his class.

Lastly, a model teacher will be a teacher and leader first, last and all the time; the class will be on his mind and in his heart through the week, the month, the year; in the church, at the home, on the street; in prayer, society and in business.—*Union Signal*.

"Sunday-school Mixtures."

SUCH was the sign that we saw conspicuously displayed a little while before Christmas in the window of a cheap confectionery store. Cheap, we say, for that was what it claimed to be, and the "Sunday-school mixtures" were the cheapest of the stock in the store, the presumption being that the children were poor, and therefore these "dirt cheap" candies would be good enough for them; and the further presumption being that the Sunday-school managers themselves were poor, and therefore these mixtures were as good as they could pay for.

We did not venture to sample the lot, for the appearance was too suggestive of paragon to be tempting to the palate, nor did we feel the least inclined to invest our Christmas money in any such suspicious-looking stuff wherewith to "treat" the juveniles at home. It was declared to be cheap, but it might be dear enough in the end, and we mentally resolved that in the matter of economizing we would begin with something else than the Slaughter of the Innocents.

And then from the candy store our thoughts wandered presently, by a not unnatural association of ideas, to the heads and hearts of the young immortals who depend upon us to furnish pabulum for their higher natures, and to the cheap and flashy "Sunday-school mixtures" in the shape of ramby-pamby periodicals and helps (?) that are thrown upon the market by the ton, by enterprising and money-making publishers. We were disposed to join with the Psalmist when he said: "My heart was hot within me." If grown-up people have a mind to snuff up the east wind, or fill themselves with chaff, there is no human law against it; but for mercy's sake let us spare the children whose destiny God has committed to our keeping.—*Baptist Teacher*