

## The Seed-Lesson.

A COMPANY of untaught little heathens—such as our large cities can easily furnish—were gathered into a Sunday-school class. Many of them had never been in such a place before, some had never heard the name of Jesus spoken with reverence.

The room in which some thirty-five or fifty of these little ones met was a barren place without a hint of brightness, save the faded red cushion on the bench which followed the line of the wall on three sides of the room.

What did the children do? Just what they do at home and on the street—punched, pinched, crowded, teased one another!

And the teacher did not once say "Don't!" She argued rightly, that the sound was too familiar to be heeded. This is what she did on the following Sunday. She brought a few seeds, a young plant, a blossom, and a ripe fruit of some kind.

The International lesson was a good one, but it was put aside that day. In its place was a talk on seeds, plant-life, and fruit-growing. The children knew very little about these mysteries, but they were encouraged to tell what they did know, and that the lesson was one of absorbing interest was proved by the fact that not one remembered to push or punch his neighbour while it lasted!

It is hardly necessary to say that the teacher had thoroughly prepared herself.

Especial attention had been drawn to the fact that each seed bears fruit after its kind. The thistle seed cannot be made to produce a velvety peach, nor can a delicious apple grow on a thorn bush.

Then the teacher told the class that she had seeds, a great many of them, which the heavenly Father who made all the seeds had given her to plant in little hearts. She said that these were good seeds, which would bring forth good fruit; they could bear no other kind! When the children were eager enough to see it she uncovered the text—previously printed on the board with coloured crayons—"Love one another." Opening her own Teachers' Bible, she showed them where she found this seed, and said that God had sent her to plant it in their hearts that day. She showed how the fruit from this seed could not possibly be harsh words, unkind acts, even sour looks!

The children understood, as was proved by the changed conditions in the class, not only that day, but thereafter, though the teaching had often to be brought to remembrance.

But the "Seed-lesson" was the influence which prepared the way for the excellent International lessons, every one of which held some sweet morsel for "these little ones."—*S. S. Journal.*

## Book Notices.

*Forging the Sword; or The Holy War.* New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs. Price 60 cts.

This is an interesting series of conversations on Christian life as a warfare. It abounds with anecdote and illustration concerning the Christian panoply, embracing the shoes, girdle, breastplate, shield, sword and helmet; also the great Captain, the enemy, the conflict and the victory. The book is handsomely illustrated, and in literary quality and religious teaching is most admirable.

*The Study of the Book of Books, for Young People.* By REV. W. H. Groat. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs. Price 20 cts.

This book is the outgrowth of the Normal Lessons, inaugurated by Bishop Vincent, at Chautauqua. It will be found especially helpful for Epworth Leagues, Young People's Societies, and supplementary studies in Sunday-schools. It will make the Bible much more a living book by its descriptions of Bible geography, history, and accounts of the Temple and Tabernacle service, and the like. We heartily commend it.

*Suggestions for the Study of the English New Testament.* By CHARLES HORSWELL, Ph.D. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price 30 cts.

Dr. Horswell attaches much importance to the method of study, which should, he says, be analytic, comparative and constructive. This method he illustrates by studies in the gospels and epistles. Among the recommended helps are the volumes of the Cambridge Bible, whose use we have frequently commended. The diagrammatic analyses are ingenious, but, we think, somewhat complex.

*Manual of Methodist Episcopal Church History, Showing the Evolution of Methodism in the United States of America.* For the use of students and general readers. By GEO. L. CURTISS, M.D., D.D. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Pp. iv. 373. Svo. Price \$1.75.

Dr. Curtiss, as Lecturer on Historical Theology at De Pauw University, found serious gaps in the history of the Methodist Church, and therefore prepared these lectures; first, to bridge these gaps, then to cover the entire field. Special attention is given to later Methodist history. A great deal of useful information is here condensed, but the book lacks the spell of genius which makes Dr. Abel Stevens' History such a charming work; nor does the author make as much as he might of the heroic lives and labors of the pioneer fathers and founders of Methodism on this continent.