

## Primary Teachers' Department.

### Primary Teaching.

One of the most difficult and, at the same time, important positions in our Sunday School work is that held by the primary teacher. We hope the time is forever past when the idea prevails that anybody can teach, the primary class. Speaking of primary teachers and teaching, a writer in the Baptist Teacher says:

"What is a good primary lesson? To my mind it is a lesson that attracts, instructs, impresses, and moves to action. As teachers, our work is almost exclusively with seeing and hearing. These two bridges lead to the intellect, the heart, and the will, or to the three processes of the child's mind—thinking, feeling, and willing. Therefore, a good lesson must give the child something to think about, something to feel, and some choice to make. We reach the intellect through truths. By this we instruct. We reach the feelings through experience, telling our own or calling to mind our pupils' experiences. By this we impress. We reach the will by presenting the joy or sorrow, the gain or loss of action or inaction. By this we move to action. A picture shown, or a story told, should first cause the child to think, then feel, and then the will should be reached. Unless teaching results in action, it is not successful. Never leave a child impressed, made thoughtful, without crystallizing this emotion into action. Fenelon, the famous French preacher, said: 'State a fact, paint a picture, raise a passion.'"—The Evangelical.

### Getting Ready.

For what, do you ask? And well you may, for this is not a small matter. The results may reach out into eternity! Getting ready to teach your Sunday School class next Sunday; that is all.

It requires a good deal of thought and painstaking effort to get ready to go on a journey, yet here is a preparation

that may help or hinder young souls on the marvellous journey from earth to heaven.

How much it means to get ready to entertain distinguished guests! Have you thought that the Lord of all, in the person of his little ones, awaits your coming to the class room next Sunday, and will mark your spirit, your preparedness to break the bread of life to his little ones?

It is an important matter that we get ready to meet the children. It cannot be done in a hurry. Time, thought, prayer, effort—all these must be freely, lovingly given. It is not sufficient to sit down on Saturday with a collection of "helps," no matter how good they may be, and plan out the lesson for the next day. The teacher who satisfies herself with any such makeshift proves conclusively that she has not yet seen the dignity of her calling.

Use "helps" indeed, but make the Bible your first help, and do not try to find what another has gleaned from it until you have yourself with care and earnest thought found in its pages what you feel will best feed your little ones. Then turn to the "helps," sift, arrange, classify, condense, and make the lesson your very own, adapted to your class. God will help you if you ask him.

Is there a child in our class who cannot learn a four-line stanza of the hymn given in the Hymn Study each Sunday? Teach the verse, giving simple explanations as you go on, and each Sunday as the month passes by review the work done on the previous Sunday or Sundays. Before you know it your children will be able to sing one of the good old hymns of the Church, and you will have planted immortal seeds to spring up and grow and bring forth fruit you know not when or where. Can you afford not to give the little time required for this exercise?