

The Teachers Monthly

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It is well worth while to keep in touch with vacation scholars. Postage is cheap; but how highly valued is the teacher's letter. Perhaps the answer will be brief. Never mind; it is because there is so much fun going. The Quarterly put in the scholar's hand before he goes away and the Illustrated Paper mailed to him every week; the experiment is easily made and will pay.

Increases and Decreases, 1904

The reports of the Sabbath School and Sabbath and School Publications Committees to the General Assembly last month announce important gains,—on the part of the Publications a very decided advance in circulations, which means a larger number of teachers and scholars and homes reached by our Lesson Helps and Illustrated Papers; and on the part of the Sabbath School Committee increases in the number of schools—there are now 2,873; in the average attendance, which is now 127,142; in givings, which are now \$132,000, being an advance of \$10,000 on last year; in the givings to the Schemes of the church alone the advance amounts to about \$4,000. There have been decreases in the number committing scripture and Shorter Catechism to memory, which is greatly to be deplored; and in the number on the roll,—which falling off seems to be owing to some error in reporting, as the average attendance has increased by no less than 1,397.

It is a disheartening fact,—but one which can and ought to be remedied, and that without delay,—that only 925 schools out of a total of about 3,000 have sent in contributions to the great missionary Schemes of

the church. The sum is a fairly large one, \$31,856; but it is inconceivable that only about one school in three should remember missions, since missions is the very reason of the existence of the church itself—that Christ's blessed gospel should be given to all the world. Let the other two-thirds wake up, and in a single year the contributions can be doubled. 1,383 schools were faithful to Children's Day. Every school should be on the list of givers to the Children's Day Fund. It is the fund which supports the Sabbath School Committee in its rapidly increasing work of Teacher Training and Supplemental Lessons, and in aid in supplying Lesson Helps and Papers to new and needy schools, French and English, as well as in the general extension and development of Sabbath School work.

Some Summer Sundays

I can feel the sweet calm of them still, those summer Sunday mornings of my boyhood, with the dew sparkling on the grass—for we were up betimes, and the whole air fragrant with the breath of flowers. The very insects in the air—there was little else of life astir—seemed to hum more quietly. The spirit of rest and of worship held the whole countryside in its spell.

It was a long forenoon: for the Sabbath School was not till two o'clock with the church service an hour later. But it was length that had no weariness. There was the "verse-about" reading of the scriptures, when the eight boys and girls gathered in the cool parlor—there was no mother, and the father was ten miles away at his morning