

## The Sunday School.

Sunday School Committee of the Co-operation of Disciples of Christ in Ontario:—J. A. Alkin, Chairman; George Fowler, J. D. Stephens.

All matter intended for publication in this department should be sent to J. A. Alkin, Orangeville, Ont.

## Provincial S. S. Association.

The Provincial Sunday School Association of Ontario held its twenty-eighth annual convention in Toronto on Oct. 24th, 25th and 26th, 1893.

As I had the privilege of attending most of the sessions I will try and give a few of the suggestions.

Tuesday, 4 p. m.—Wm. Reynolds, General Superintendent of Organization International Sunday School Convention, rejoiced with the Sunday school workers in our city on behalf of the recent victory of the Lord's day observance. His address was, "What shall we do for the scholars between Sundays?" His remarks were very pointed and practical. He claimed that the pastors, elders and deacons should always be found in the Sunday school if nothing more than to come in, look dignified, and have a friendly word for the scholars.

8:45 p. m.—The Rev. W. H. Wade of Hamilton, delivered a very eloquent address on "The Christ life in the teacher." He showed clearly that this Christ life was a necessary qualification of a Sunday school teacher, each having a personal knowledge of the Christ life by letting Christ's words abide in us. He concluded by saying that the Christ life is sin-conquering, witnessing for Christ and self-renouncing.

9:15 p. m.—Miss Annie Harlow, of Lowell, Mass., next spoke on "How to prepare the lesson and how to impart it." Study the lesson thoughtfully and prayerfully, learning the connections and the facts; then look for the teaching, first for the teacher, second for the class. All teaching should centre around the golden text. The illustrations should be honest and taken from the daily life of children. She illustrated a very interesting and instructive lesson on "Paul shipwrecked" by having little boats, small articles representing Paul, the centurion and the captain, bags of wheat, which were thrown overboard when the storm arose, and the anchors lowered. The sailors tried to make away and the boat was cut loose. Paul's faith and assurance caused the entire crew to be saved. The Golden Text applied, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." All who heard this Christian lady feel the great necessity of being better prepared to plant the seeds of truth before the weeds come.

Some points for the primary teacher: She should never be disturbed by visitors or the officers of the school. She requires a small organ and a good blackboard. Mention by name the absent ones in your prayers before your class. Get your scholars to tell you something of the things they have to be thankful for and what they should ask God for. She should always be on time and shake hands with every member of the class.

Wednesday, 3 p. m.—Prof. H. M. Hammill, of Illinois, gave an example of a "Model teachers' meeting," based on 1 Cor. viii, 1-13. He claimed that every well-organized school should have a "teachers' meeting" which should be opened with prayer, followed by a roll call of officers and teachers. Then a business council with regard to the management of the school and for the study of the lesson.

At 7:45 p. m. on Thursday evening he spoke on "Better Bible study." First, study it reverently, acknowledging, *I must make a self-surrender.* Second,

study systematically. Third, evangelistically.

Thursday, 8:30 p. m.—Dr. McKay, Secretary of Foreign Missions, Presbyterian church of Canada, gave an address on "The crisis of missions—a problem for the home and Sunday school." How far is it possible for our Sunday schools to help spread the gospel in every land? He pleaded that the collections of the various schools should be put aside for missions and the schools supported by the church.

The Rev. Wm. Briggs, D.D., of Toronto, delivered a short address on "More reverence for God's holy book."

A returned missionary from Japan urged all Christians to live consistent lives, as they are being closely watched by those in foreign lands who have turned to Christ.

The convention closed by singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

ANNIE LEARY.

## The Need of Bible Study by the Sunday School Teacher.

FELLOW-TEACHER. Let me begin this talk with a personal question: Have you a good grasp of next Sunday's lesson? You are pledged to teach, and you will have, at the most, a brief forty-five minutes to impart its lessons to a score of boys and girls, in whom I hope you are deeply interested. Are its facts deeply stamped on your mind? Are its principal lessons quite clear to you? How many good points have you well in hand for that class? It has some difficulties: have you solved them so well that you can remove the difficulty for others? By your study have you caught the spirit of that lesson? Have you so studied it that it has warmed your own heart, enlightened your own understanding, and influenced your own life? It has some connection with its surroundings in the book of God. Can you point out what that connection is? And above all do you know what this lesson teaches which your class specially needs to learn? In reply, you remind me that all this will call for study. Certainly it will, and I want to impress on you that nothing else can take the place of study. Are you then a student of the word of God? You can never be a successful teacher without study. There is no royal road, no short cut to efficiency in this chosen calling of yours, for the best you can do is none too good for Christ and the children for whom you do it.

That class of yours will quickly discover if your work with them be superficial, and they will lose interest in the lesson, remain in ignorance of its truths, and lose respect for their teacher. Remember, these are three serious losses that cannot be avoided if we neglect the study of the Word of God in our Sunday school work. If you have any doubt of the loss to the pupil by your superficial work and want of knowledge of divine truth, ask your class a few questions next Sunday, such questions as you think they out to be able to answer, but not directly connected with the lesson of the day. If your work has been carelessly done you will be sadly humiliated. Try it, and you will do more thorough and careful teaching in the future, and to do this you must do more real study yourself.

The hour spent in the teachers' meeting is valuable, but not enough. The half hour given to the *Quarterly* or the *Sunday School Times* will not meet the need. Each lesson must be the subject of earnest, candid enquiry, of thorough investigation. Don't go to your class with borrowed ideas simply. Don't do with the lesson helps—what you will not allow your class to do. Don't content yourself with talking

about the manners and customs and geography of the lesson, nor grow garrulous over the settlement of an almost invisible point, which when settled is of the smallest importance. But study to carry to the class the mind of the Spirit, the will of God. The commands, or precepts or promises which God has placed in that portion of His Book—study, I say, earnestly, prayerfully, painstakingly. Nothing else will do, nothing else can take its place. Less than this is less than your duty, less than you owe to your class, less than you owe to Christ, less than God will accept or bless so I say, "Study to show yourself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed," and your reward will be secure, your success certain.

JAMES LEDIARD.

## Bible Studies at Ann Arbor.

It is probably known to all the readers of this paper that by the effort of the good sisters of the C. W. B. M. two Bible chairs have been established at Ann Arbor, Michigan, to give instruction in the English Bible to any students of the University of Michigan who may desire it. This work began with the opening of the university in October and is making the experiment of gathering students of the Bible from among those who attend the State university. The friends of the enterprise were very uncertain concerning the success of the effort, but now all doubts have been removed by the unexpectedly large attendance in the Bible classes. The president of the university did everything possible to encourage this work, but said that if fifteen or twenty students should take the work the first year it might be regarded as an encouraging indication. Already, however, above forty-five have registered for Bible studies and are regular in attendance at classes. The courses are so arranged as to include nearly all of the Old and New Testaments in very careful study. Several students are taking two or three studies in the Bible the first year.

In addition to the local work of the Bible chairs, correspondence work has also been provided by which persons desirous of becoming more familiar with the Scriptures who have not the privilege of attending college may take the studies at their homes. Thus by working a half hour or an hour a day they may, in a few months, obtain a very satisfactory knowledge of the history of Israel, the life of Christ, the life and writings of Paul, Old Testament prophecy and the Psalms, and at the same time not neglect the daily duties of the home. To these are also added courses in Greek and Hebrew for persons who have never studied these languages, and for those who desire to review them. The work in Greek is all done upon the text of the New Testament. Any further information concerning this correspondence work which any one who may wish to take it may desire, can be obtained by addressing the writer.

Fortunately for our Bible work in Ann Arbor, arrangements have been made with the Students' Christian Association to use their commodious class-rooms in their hall immediately in front of the university buildings. As this hall is students' headquarters, we could not obtain a more public place to begin our work, nor a place better suited to commend it to the consideration of the students of the university.

It is confidently believed that the work is destined to achieve very worthy results in years to come if it be properly directed and supported. The instructors of these classes would call the attention of the Christian parents of the young men and women attending the university to this opportunity to have their sons and daughters obtain a fair knowledge of the sacred writings; and it is hoped that the young people here will receive due encouragement from home to avail themselves of these opportunities.

CLINTON LOCKHART.

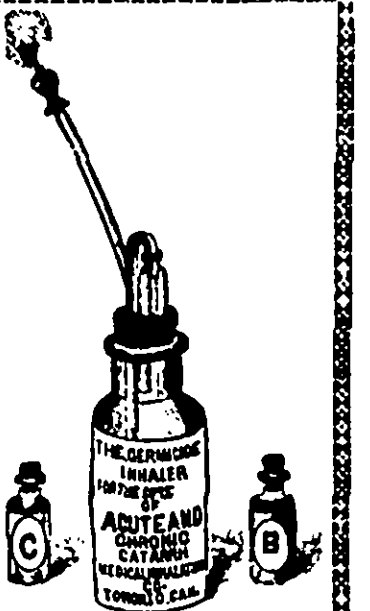
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