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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1888.

Is Your Signal-Light Right?

It is twilight. The night is coming on. The signal-light is there between the shadowy woods and the hard iron track. There is a man climbing a ladder planted against the signal-post. He has gone up to inspect the signal. If every thing be right, as the trains come crashing on, the signal will be green. If there be danger, sharp and red will be the warning thrown out to the watching engineer in the locomotive-cab. What if the wrong signal be shown to a rushing train? The man on the ladder makes careful inspection. Several tramps coming down the track shout derisively at him. The man on the ladder is deaf. A friend approaches and argues that this care is superfluous. The man on the ladder is dumb. "You shall see me and hear me and assent to me," says this friend, climbing the ladder. The man on the ladder, though, is now blind as well as deaf and dumb. Hark, there comes the evening express thundering round the curve! Everything is all right," says the man on the ladder.

Teacher, what about your signal-light? The night of trial will come to your scholars, and just what are your teachings! Do you hold up Christ and him crucified, faithfully warning of righteousness, temperance, judgment, as the trains roll by? What if the signal be wrong? What if there be danger and you do not announce danger? Take out your ladder and examine your signal. Raise that old ladder that has seen such long service, Jacob's ladder, and in prayer look over your life, your teachings, your example. Get near to God in this

work of self-inspection. Let nothing divert you. Men may sneer. Men may say your care is unnecessary. Men may oppose you. Stay on your ladder. Be alone with God, deaf save to his voice, dumb save when he speaks, blind save when he moves. Before your scholars, show the needed signal-light!

Be faithful!

Quick!

The train is coming!—S. S. Journal.

Studying the Word of God.

BY HOPE LEDYARD.

As I study the International Lessons week by week with teachers, I hear from all one story: "We explain the lesson, we are careful that even the youngest children should understand the connection. The vine-clad slopes of Judea, the luxuriant plains and hills of Galilee, the luscious fruits of Samaria, all as described again and again to the scholars, till, as in a certain primary class, the teacher has but to outline the river with its little lake of Merom, its larger lake or sea, and the sea into which it empties, when eager little voices cry out, 'the Jordan, the Jordan!'" But, how about that good old habit of memorizing the Scriptures? Surely we should not leave this part of the work undone! I am told again and again, "I have tried, but I can't get the scholars to study."

I know no other way but to ask the Lord to give you a true comprehension of the preciousness of his Word. I believe that a real love for the actual words of the Bible, a real delight in hearing them, by the teacher, will do more to make children study Bible verses than anything else. The younger the children are, the easier this is. It is a great mistake to teach only the Golden Text in the primary class. Think how many hymns the children learn—they might just as easily learn Bible verses.

I feel so deeply on this subject that, with the permission of my kind friend, the Editor, I mean to try, very simply, to show how little children can be taught a great deal of the Bible—over sixty verses during a quarter. In the first place, be sure every child is comfortable. It is not time lost to see that the cloaks are loosened, the warm hoods and mufflers taken off. Then be sure the children are brightened and have had plenty of change of position, before you begin. Motion songs are excellent for this. Then, talking as you work, print in various colors on the board, the verse you wish to teach. Ask the children how to spell each word. Print in capitals, for the little tots know every I and O, and watching for the familiar letters keeps them attentive.

Now that your sentence is printed, do not just hammer it into the children. Say, "Now let us say, 'In the beginning God created.' What a long word that yellow one is. Let's count on our fingers, 'Be-gin-ning.' Now say it all twice. Nellie's row may say it. The boys say it. Listen and see if I remember it." You