

The Teachers Monthly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Editor

Vol. XXII.

Toronto, April, 1916

No. 4

The question of Lesson Helps and Illustrated Papers comes up afresh this month in about one-third of all our Sunday Schools, for this number are open only in the summer months. Rev. Dr. Macgillivray, in whose congregation is one of the most thoroughly organized and successful Sunday Schools in Canada, has something to say, on pages 160 and 161 of this issue, as to a School using the Sunday School papers of its own church. The same might be said as to the Lesson Helps. Our church, through its PUBLICATIONS Committee, provides a very full and complete line of Helps and Papers "Made in Canada" for our own Canadian Presbyterian Sunday School teachers and scholars. There is no requirement of any School which we cannot supply, and every one of our periodicals fits, like the hand into the glove, right into the needs of our Canadian Presbyterian Schools.

Open the Sluice Gates

Holman Hunt, the artist to whose genius we owe the famous picture, *The Light of the World*, tells of a conversation in which Gladstone and Tennyson took part with himself and which turned on the subject of prayer. Tennyson said: "When I pray, I regard my prayer as the opening of the sluice gates between me and the Infinite."

Perhaps the poet had in mind the sluice gates of a canal, thinking of a boat entering into a lock where it seems to be imprisoned by the gates closed behind and before, but where, as the sluice gates are raised, the waters from the higher levels flow down to the lower levels and lift the boat by the force that comes from above. Or it may have been of a miller and his wheel. There hangs the wheel, still and powerless. But the sluice

gate is lifted, the water rushes down, the wheel begins to whirl merrily around, and all the machinery of the mill is set in motion.

The first requisite to any effective work for God is the opening of the sluice gates of prayer. The obstacles to the inflow of infinite power must be removed, else all human methods and organization will accomplish nothing. But, once the way is made clear before that divine energy, there is no limit to what may be achieved, even through the use of means apparently the most feeble.

Carried for Fifty Years

By Rev. A. L. Fraser, B.D.

It was at the closing exercises of the Sunday School year in one of our large congregations, when Bibles were being presented to the pupils who had repeated correctly the Shorter Catechism, and diplomas to those who had memorized scripture, and he, as chairman of the board of managers, was present with representatives from the session to make the presentation, that, taking an old book from his pocket, he spoke as follows:

"This book and I have been great companions. It has gone with me all over Europe, and across the North American continent more than once. I have read it in Italy when the sun was rising on Sorrento; and I have closed the day with it in Vienna. It has cheered me after a tiring day in dear old London. It has been with me in Brussels and in Paris. I have carried it around, when away from home, for fifty years this Christmas."

What book was it that so influenced his life and that went so far with him and so often? Notes here and there told when it was read through and read through again.