

hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty." (1 Cor. 1: 27).

V. 3.—"Whosoever is fearful and afraid." In the laws respecting war, (Deut. 20: 8) "The officers shall speak unto the people and shall say, What man is fearful and faint hearted let him return." and the reason is given, "lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart." So, too, in Christian work and warfare, courage is contagious. Pliable will not make a good pilgrim. Our Lord calls this "counting the cost." Judges 14: 28.

V. 5.—*Every one that lappeth.* Bowing down upon the knees to drink was taken as an indication of the absence of earnest impetuosity. "Lapping water in this way was considered as a mark of sobriety and activity, and distinguished the manly and active soldier from the more dainty and feeble." This lapping is described as "throwing up water into the mouth with the hollow of the hand, as rapidly as the dog laps." With these 300 men, Gideon went forth in the spirit of King Asa, "Lord it is nothing with thee to help whether with many, or with them that have no power." Many are called, but few chosen, or "choice ones." Matt. 20: 16.

Sabbath School Notes.

Teachers should use illustrations, not profusely, but wisely—Mr. Spurgeon recently repeated a lecture on "Candles," at the annual meeting of the Pastor's College, which had its origin in this wise. "While he was urging on students in the college the necessity of using illustrations in preaching, one of them asked him where illustrations were to come from, whereupon he replied that he would not give two pence for a man who could not preach six months from a tallow candle; the result being that he set to work to find out illustrations from that source, which grew by development into the lecture repeated."

So far as personal scrutiny goes, says *The Presbyterian*, the majority of church members would not know, unless the children should let it out, if Mormonism was taught in the Sabbath-school. Certainly they would not know by any examination to which they submit their children after the school is over.

A superintendent states that for a long while he was in the habit of going to his Bible-class for teachers to supply temporary vacancies. But he found that this worked badly in several respects. Teachers were frequently absent, thinking that their places would be filled; the Bible-classes were weakened by the frequent withdrawal of

their best members; the temporary teachers were never thoroughly prepared, and sometimes quite ill-qualified to do the work unexpectedly put on them; and the Bible-class teachers were dissatisfied. So he concluded to try another plan, which he thus describes in the *S. S. Times*. It is quite as important to have thriving adult classes as classes of youths. And this is what he did: It was agreed that a teacher twice absent in succession forfeited his class; but if absent at all he must send a supply; that, in other words, each class was a school by itself, for which the teacher was held responsible. It belonged to the teacher in the same sense that it would if held in his own house. I held to the new plan with decision, and with a most marked improvement. Miss Irresponsible considered her case a hard one, but we soon found another class for, and she became as steady as a clock. The difficulty is not entirely overcome, and probably never will be, but there is a decided improvement in promptness and regularity. There is no reason in employing a person as teacher who cannot keep time with the pupils.

Returned.

Rev. Wm. McCallagh from Tasmania, and formerly connected with the New Hebrides Mission, arrived in New Scotia, near the close of 1874, and is now engaged in supplying vacancies in the Presbytery of Halifax.

Statistics.

The Statistical Schedule should by all Sessions be filled up and forwarded to the Clerk of the Presbytery at the latest by the 1st March. It is expected to be on the table of the Presbytery at its first meeting after that date.

A Synodical Order.

Each Presbytery is enjoined to appoint one of their number, whose duty it shall be to see that all the congregations within its bounds contribute to all the schemes of the Church. Or to make it the duty of the Clerk of the Presbytery, at the first meeting after he has tabulated the statistical returns, to report all cases of delinquency that the Presbytery may deal with under the circumstances require.

Erratum.

In January RECORD under Foreign Missions, for Bäddeck, \$41.38, read \$24.38.