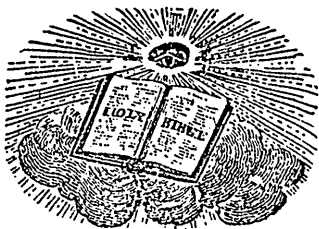


# SUNDAY SCHOOL GUARDIAN.



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"ALL THY CHILDREN SHALL BE TAUGHT OF THE LORD."

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## PRINCIPLES FOR TEACHERS.

1. THE *doctrine, truth or duty* to be inculcated should be distinctly set forth.

Every teacher should endeavor to obtain clear views of the subjects which he has to inculcate. For no man can express himself clearly or intelligibly, who does not think distinctly and with correctness. The catechisms and the Hymn-Book may be studied with great advantage. The doctrines, duties, and privileges of Christianity are stated there with great perspicuity and force. Definitions to be remembered must also be short; but this brevity is likely to make the subject more difficult to be perceived by the youthful mind: hence the great necessity of a teacher obtaining clear views of the subject which he wishes to inculcate, that he may illustrate it in a variety of ways; for this is the only method by which the disadvantages connected with the

unavoidable conciseness of elementary works, such as Catechisms, can be counteracted. The teacher must enlarge when needful, and bring the subject before the mind's eye, in numerous forms in order to interest and instruct. But if the subject the first understood, this will be found a practicable task. When we thoroughly comprehend a truth, it is not very difficult to find illustrations by which to explain it to others.

2. Another characteristic of a good method of instruction is *brevity*.

By brevity I do not mean so much the use of few words, in teaching religion, as conciseness in the amount of truth propounded at one time. It may be needful to employ many words, to interest the young, and to convey correct views, by divers illustrations, to their minds; but the subject should be presented in small pieces easily grasped. A child may not be competent to grasp an orange, although it can seize and hide in its