

The Teachers Monthly

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The number applying for examination in the Teacher Training Course indicates how thoroughly appreciated it has been.

The General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee have adopted a course of Scripture Memory Passages, one year for those under ten, for the Certificate, and three years for those over ten, for the Diploma and Seals. There is also a little list of verses "for those who cannot read." This new course will take the place of the passages now issued year by year. Further particulars will be given in good time for 1904.

BEING AT ONE'S BEST

By Rev. John McNicol, B.D.

There are few places where the power of personal influence counts for more than in the Sabbath School class. Phillips Brooks' definition of preaching applies to teaching as well—"the communication of truth through the whole personality." The Word of God, expressed in a life or enforced in a living person, has a power far beyond the Word as a mere abstraction. The teacher's personality determines the kind of impression that each day's lesson leaves upon his class. It may limit and weaken that impression, or it may deepen and strengthen it. If the teacher's personal influence is week after week steady and strong and true, his scholars will inevitably receive the impress of it in their characters. Without any conscious effort on his part a silent force is bearing upon them, which will tell in some degree to the end of their lives.

In order to get the highest use of this

power the teacher should always be at his best before his class.

A man is likely to be at his best when he has a deep and settled conviction that he is doing the will of God, and this assurance the Sabbath School teacher may have. Teaching a little group of children in a Sabbath School is as clearly part of God's great will as preaching to a crowded congregation or carrying the gospel to the heathen. It is part of God's work. He means certain persons to do it. It is His personal will for them. They are called by God to that work in the same sense in which the minister and the missionary are called to theirs. The teacher has a special part of God's purpose in the world to fulfil, a place assigned to himself in the onward progress of God's great kingdom. Let him be sure he is doing just the work God means him to do, that he is occupying just the place God means him to occupy, and he will gain a repose and quiet strength that will pervade all his influence with his class.

The whole tone and temper of the teacher's personality will be raised by holding resolutely in view the dominant purpose of training young lives for Christ and building them up in Him. This will cultivate true love for the children, a love that is more than emotion. It will awaken his personal interest in them as well as give to it definite direction. It will save his influence from drifting and prevent his work in the class from sinking to a mere perfunctory duty.

Most of all will the teacher's personal influence depend upon his contact with the master personality of Jesus Christ. If his daily life is lived under the inspiring control