

and not utterly exclude all hymns of a lighter type; to meet the wants and tastes of teachers, adult scholars, and children of different grades, down to that of the infant class; to provide for the numerous anniversaries recognized by the Churches; to introduce nothing of doubtful theology or tendency, and to make the Hymnal suitable for social services without damage to Sabbath-school interests, were among the many considerations steadily kept in view by the committee.

"A Tune Book, with a tune adapted to every hymn in the Hymnal, has also been prepared by another committee. The music is issued simultaneously with the publication of the hymns. In the examination of the music it will be very apparent that the right hand of one, who by previous musical compilations placed the Church under no small obligation, has not forgotten its cunning. Both Hymnal and Tune Book are so paged as to make it easy to find the hymn in the one and the music in the other, without reference to Index. May this volume, prepared and published by authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Church, be rendered a great blessing to thousands throughout the Dominion of Canada.

WE beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of Sunday-school libraries for donations to poor Schools, from the Walkerton Sunday-school, per E. H. Sheffield, Sec'y, and from the Burford Sunday-school, per Rev. W. Hayhurst.

The Superintendent's Work.

1. BEFORE the lesson: To be present ten minutes before the time of opening. To greet the teachers and scholars before school. To provide substitutes for absent teachers. To have the parts of the programme filled out, appropriate hymns selected, etc. To make the opening exercises short, and vary them occasionally. To call for the text of the morning sermon, and where it is found.

2. During the lesson: Avoid walking about and interfering with the teachers. Have an eye to order. See how the work is being done. Keep everybody away from the classes. Watch for good appointments for new teachers. Gently tap the bell five minutes before the close of the lesson. Note any indications of special spiritual interest in any class.

3. After the lesson: As soon as attention is secured, be ready to proceed. Review the lesson briefly, but pointedly, using questions, previously prepared, calculated to elicit ready answers. Seek to impress the truth taught by the teacher, rather than to dissipate it by striking or sensational efforts, which display the superintendent's abilities as a blackboardist or otherwise. As far as possible, let the closing hymn be petitional in its character, and in harmony

with the teachings of the lessons. The superintendent, having carefully observed during the teaching of the lesson any special interest in any case, or special lack of it, should endeavour to speak sympathizingly and helpfully with the teacher before leaving the room. The superintendent ought to observe and speak appreciatively to those who have made special effort to be present. See that the spirit of reverence is maintained by every one up to the moment of leaving the room.—R. W. Woodward.

Great Influence of Little Things.

THE man who wrote the four simple lines beginning with "Now I lay me down to sleep," seemed to do a very small thing. He wrote four lines for his little child. His name has not come down to us, but he has done more for the good of his race than if he had commanded the victorious army at Waterloo. The little fires which the good man kindles here and there on the shores of time, never go out; but ever and anon they flame up and throw a light upon the pilgrim's path. There is hardly anything so fearful, to my mind, as the mind reaching down into the coming ages, and writing itself upon the minds of unborn generations. We know not whose hand held the pen that wrote the Arabian Nights; but what a book! How few are the children who have not sat spell-bound at the feet of that enchanter!

Book Notices.

The Early Days of Christianity. By F. W. FARRAR, D.D., F. R. S., Canon of Westminster; author of "The Life of Christ," "The Life and Work of St. Paul," etc. 8vo., 664 pages. Price, 40 cents, paper; 75 cents, cloth. New York: Funk & Wagnalls; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.

This great work, which is issued in one volume, with all the Notes, Appendix, Index, etc. the same as the Five-Dollar Edition, throws a flood of light on The Acts of the Apostles, and should be in the hands of all preachers who lecture or preach on the Sunday-school lessons, and of all Sunday-school Superintendents and teachers, and of Advance Bible Class Scholars. The marvellously low price puts it within the reach of all.

"It describes the deeply interesting events of the early days of the Christian Church, and the state of politics and society in which the Church grew up. An account is given of the lives and writings of the three pillar apostles, St. Peter, St. James, and St. John, with an explanation of their Epistles and of the Apocalypse. The social and political conditions of the Roman Empire, and the relation of the Church with it, are treated with Canon Farrar's well-known learning and eloquence. The glowing and rapid style for which Canon Farrar has been so much admired carries the reader easily through the