

# The Teachers Monthly

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## A New Year and a New Beginning

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENER

Old work done better, new work undertaken, and done well. A lift up—and a step forward.

A TEACHER TRAINING CLASS in every congregation, in compliance with the General Assembly's request, and in answer to the call from the Schools for "better teaching".

A CRADLE ROLL in every congregation. If one hundred can be enrolled, so much the better, if but one or two, the more easily can it be done.

AN ORGANIZED CLASS in the 3,161 Schools that do not report one. Think of the life, energy and service bound up with the 100,000 we ought easily to enroll for fuller and more effective work.

A HOME DEPARTMENT in every congregation. "A sure and effective agency for the introduction of Bible reading in the home and the institution of the 'family altar'. A silken cord binding home and School together."

These are of the things that can be done, and therefore ought to be done, the doing of which will add to the gladness of the New Year.

## Surprised

Sir Andrew Fraser, so widely known through his connection with the Laymen's Missionary Movement, told, in a recent address, of an occasion during his administration as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, when he was presenting honors bestowed by the king on certain natives of India who had distinguished themselves by their services in a dangerous crisis in that country. At a great "durbar", or official reception, each of these was called forward, not knowing what honor

he was to receive, most of them, however, showing, by their manner, that they expected some signal token of the king's favor.

At last, when the name of a brave Brahmin was called, who had risked his life in the royal cause, and had, indeed, narrowly escaped death, so overcome was he with surprise at being selected as worthy of any mark of distinction, that he could hardly stammer out the customary words of respect in addressing the Governor. He had been intent simply on doing his duty in the crisis, the thought of receiving any public recognition had never entered his mind.

Many a Christian worker there is, doing in a lowly sphere, with unswerving fidelity, the daily task laid upon him by the Master, who will be equally surprised when he is singled out, at last, as especially deserving of the praise of his Lord, whose eye no humblest act of loving service escapes.

## Our Dwelling Place

By Rev. George A. Little, B.A.

Our real home is not the house in which we live or the town in which we reside. Men may live on the same street and yet be dwelling in different worlds. The musician lives in a world of sound. The mathematician dwells in a world of numbers. The historian lives in the past. The poet lives in imagination Elaine, in Tennyson's Idyll, lived in her chamber high up a tower to the east, but her real life was in the hidden meanings which she guessed in the devices upon Lancelot's shield. "So she lived in fantasy."

The Christian lives in a spiritual world. Christ is the Dwelling Place of his soul. "Abide in Me", said Christ. "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in