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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1889.

As Indispensable as Ever.

We mean that it is as indispensable as ever that teachers should visit their pupils. No improvements or new methods of any kind can take the place of this expression of personal interest.

Teaching requires, among other things, a ready communication of thought. For this purpose minds must be in some kind of sympathy. Without a bridge of mutual interest, the space between them may be compared to an impassable gulf. Friendliness between teacher and learner is more than a luxury. It hastens communication. It qualifies one to be an *instructor*, in the sense of *building up* the recipient mind.

The free, friendly, informal social call is an expression of good-will; further, it deepens good-will. Thus it makes strong the sympathy between minds, and aids the teacher to become victor in the race with ignorance and indifference.

The visit by a teacher should be unaffected. There is no profit in playing a part. If we try to make Charley think we love him twice as much as we do, he will probably not give us credit for half of the love we really feel. The part that is pretence spoils the part that is genuine. Instead of doubling the effort, we have divided it, and into fractions smaller than halves. Be genuine in visiting, and genuine good-will must increase.

Another point is informality. But we should remember that there is a formal frivolity as well as a formal solemnity; one who

cracks jokes when he does not feel like it, is as truly formal as another who is solemn on principle. We do not admire what some are pleased to call "professional piety." Nor do we delight in assumed foolishness. In calling upon pupils be informal by talking of those things in which you and your people feel a common interest, so that both can express an interest, and yet be natural.

As for time needed in visiting, it is a relief to remember that five minutes will sometimes do wonders. You ring or rap, see Mary ten minutes, find how her big brother is who was sick last week, throw out a thought or two on the next lesson, tell an item of non-contraband news about a "mutual friend," find how your pupil is prospering in meeting a difficulty recently confided to you, give a little advice and cheering sympathy, and are off without hindering the busy girl very long from the task of the day. "What a splendid teacher!" is her ejaculation, after you are gone. Next Sabbath it will take more than "Sunday headache" to keep her from the class.—*Exchange.*

The Comforter.

BY REV. JAMES COOKE SEYMOUR.

Who knows the sorrows that are ours,
The pungent griefs, the dark, sad hours,
When close pursued by hellish powers?
The Comforter.

Who soothes the anguish of the heart,
Removes the pain, affliction's smart,
And bids the Tempter quite depart!
Great Comforter.

Who whispers "peace," we gladly hear,
Who draws our souls to Jesus near,
And sorrows turn to joys most dear?
Sweet Comforter.

Who points in hope to worlds on high,
Reward that waits us in the sky,
Bright home! encouragingly nigh?
Blest Comforter.

The Hush of Devotions.

How impressive is the hush of the devotional hour in Sunday-school! It is that still place in the river's surface which means deep water. And is it not indeed significant? It means the peace around the form of Jesus, some little chamber where the doors are shut, and He is saying, "Peace be unto you!" It is a moment when a child's thoughts go flying Godward in the silent hush. Do not let any one interfere with it. Educate the school to be thoroughly reverent in its devotional exercises. When the scholars have long been out in life, their thoughts will go back to that "still place in the river," and in memory's light it will be flushed with the glory of the sunset.—*S. S. Journal.*

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