

The Teachers Monthly

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The increased space now available in the editorial pages allows room for fuller discussion of plans and methods, and of worldwide Sunday School work. We welcome to our columns, for the first time, this month Dr. Frank Woodbury, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, an active worker in the Provincial Association and a member of the International Executive Committee, and Mr. E. A. Hardy, an educationist of long experience and lately appointed to the Teacher Training Secretaryship of the Ontario Provincial Association.

KEEP HOLD

By Rev. F. W. Murray

In a back district Sunday School some years ago was a boy who, by his pranks and mischief, was a trial to his teacher and superintendent. But the teacher was patient, though often unsuccessful. She never scolded the boy, but did her duty cheerfully.

The boy is now preaching the gospel, and is an ardent supporter of Sunday Schools and a strong advocate of keeping hold of the growing boys and girls.

There is nothing like keeping hold. The colt with the most life is the most difficult to train to harness; but he is of great value if successfully trained. And the illustration holds good in the training of the young.

The youth between twelve and seventeen is worth treating with the utmost patience and tact. Whether one feels discouraged or not, then is the time to keep hold of the scholar. Results may not be visible. Failure may seem imminent, but in spite of all, then is the time to keep hold.

If one determinedly prays and works to keep hold, he will not really fail. There may

be a seeming failure; but even this will seldom occur. The teacher who has for a reasonable time come in contact with a young life and led it into truth can safely trust the truth to do its work. Give the truth time.

As to the art of keeping hold,—it can be acquired. The way to acquire it is to go to work. One may theorize a long time about blacksmithing, but the way to acquire the trade is to take the hammer, and sweat over it. The skill will come slowly, perhaps, but come it will.

If any boy, then, is trying to shake school and teacher off, keep hold of him. There are methods. Inquire of others. Consult books. But, above all, study the boy and win him. Don't let one failure, or a thousand and one, break the hold. If the hold seems to get slighter, grip harder, put forth more effort. And whether one fails or not, remember, we have absolutely no right to give up.

Upper Musquodoboit, N.S.

"TORONTO, 1905"

By a Member of the International Executive

The International Sunday School Executive Committee held its annual session recently in Buffalo, N.Y., the Chairman, W. N. Hartshorn, of Boston, presiding. This Committee is composed of a representative from each state and territory in the Union, one from each province and territory of the Dominion, and one each from Newfoundland and Mexico. The present Committee was appointed at the last International Convention, held in Denver in 1902. The meeting was an unusually large and representative one; being attended by delegates from 31