

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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The Thinning Ranks.*

The day grows lonelier; the air
Is chillier than it used to be.
We hear about us everywhere
The haunting chords of memory,
Dear faces that once made our joy,
Have vanished from the sweet home
band;
Dear tasks that were our loved employ
Have dropped from out our loosened
hand.

Familiar names in childhood given,
None call us by save those in heaven;
We cannot talk with later friends
Of those old times to which love lends
Such mystic haze of soft regret;
We would not, if we could, forget
The sweetness of the by-gone hours,
So priceless are Love's faded flowers;
But lonelier grows the waning day,
And much we miss upon the way,
Our comrades, who have heard the call
That soon or late must summon all.

Ah, well! the day grows lonelier here.
Thank God it doth not yet appear
What thrill of perfect bliss awaits
Those who pass on within the gates.
Oh! dear ones who have left my side
And passed beyond the swelling tide,
I know that you will meet me when
I, too, shall leave the ranks of men,
And find the glorious company
Of saints from sin forever free,
Of angels who do always see
The face of Christ, and ever stand
Serene and strong at God's right hand.

* Poem selected for Memorial Service at the Illinois State Sunday-school Convention.

The days grow lonelier, the air
Hath waftings strangely keen and cold.
But woven in, O glad, O rare,
What love-notes from the hills of gold!
Dear crowding faces gathered there,
Dear, blessed tasks, that wait our hand,
What joy, what pleasure shall we share,
Safe anchored in the one home-land!

Close up, O comrades, close the ranks,
Press onward, waste no fleeting hour!
Beyond the outworks, lo! the banks
Of that full tide, where life hath power,
And Satan lieth under foot,
And sin is killed e'en at the root,
Close up, close fast the wavering line
Ye who are led by One divine;
The day grows lonelier apace,
But heaven shall be our trysting place.
—Margaret Sangster.

Sunday-school Thermometer.

The "Sunday-school Thermometer" device is a sort of wall chart, home made or purchased, for indicating the rise or fall of weekly attendance and weekly offerings. It is a large drawing representing two thermometers, with red tapes which can be raised or lowered. Inquiries having recently come concerning the method, it may be noted that E. C. Romine, 728 Huntington Street, Philadelphia, furnishes a chart of strong paper (10 x 40 inches), mounted on rollers, at one dollar. In ordering, the present average attendance and offering of the school should be mentioned.—S. S. Times.