

The Teachers Monthly

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OUR PLANS

THE HOME STUDY SERIES of Lesson Helps enters, with the present issue, on its sixth year. It has received a hearty welcome from the Church, and, now that permanent provision for its continuance has been made by the General Assembly, hopes to fill even a larger place in the Church's life.

Its aim is simple and single, to aid those who study God's Holy Word, whether in the Sabbath-school or the home.

The different publications of the series are so arranged as to fit into and supplement one another. **THE TEACHERS' MONTHLY** is for teachers and Bible-classes, but both teacher and Bible-class scholar may gain much by going through the lesson in **THE HOME STUDY QUARTERLY** as well; whilst the older boys and girls, for whom **THE QUARTERLY** is specially intended, will discover additional matter quite within their reach in **THE MONTHLY**, and parents and older brothers and sisters, who have access to the higher members of the series, will be thereby helped, when they come to use **THE PRIMARY QUARTERLY** in instructing the little ones. **THE LEAFLETS** contain the same matter on the lessons as the quarterlies, and are issued in the separate form for cheapness and convenience sake.

Our plans are not stereotyped. The present issues are but beginnings. The endeavor will be to touch the needs of teachers and scholars at every point.

Those belonging to the Home Department, which is now attracting attention in many localities, will find, it is believed, all necessary assistance in **THE HOME STUDY SERIES**.

In the preparation of the Lesson Helps these three things will be kept constantly in view—they are vital—the spiritual quickening of teacher and taught, the discovery of the precise meaning of God's word in the Book, and the applying of that word to heart and conscience and life.

R. DOUGLAS FRASER.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER IN VARIOUS ASPECTS

By Rev. Principal Mac Vicar, D. D., LL. D.

I.

THE TEACHER IN HIS STUDY

Every conscientious and successful teacher must spend considerable time in study. He can no more do without this than a minister can preach fresh and telling sermons without carefully preparing them.

He should begin to study the lesson early; if possible on the Sunday evening preceding that on which it is to be taught. He should restrict himself at the outset to the use of the Cambridge Reference Bible and "Companion," issued in 1893, *Cruden's Concordance*, and a Bible Dictionary. All other "Helps," published in Philadelphia, Chicago, Toronto and elsewhere, should be scrupulously avoided until he has done his very best with the books named. How is he to proceed?

1. Let him read the lesson repeatedly in as many versions as he knows—English, French, Gaelic, Greek, etc.—until he is able from memory to tell accurately what the lesson is about, and to give details as to persons, places and incidents mentioned. A well-written newspaper article deserves this much attention. How much more is due to the Word of God!

2. Let him now express in clear and simple sentences the thoughts discovered in the lesson, regardless, meanwhile, of order, only making sure that none are omitted and that none are inserted that do not legitimately belong to the passage. Now comes the most serious and essential business of all—to determine precisely the main thought, the great ruling thought of the writer, what is usually called the scope of the lesson. This is sometimes very apparent. For example: The inimitable parables recorded in Luke 15 were delivered by Jesus in answer to the charge made against Him by the Pharisees and Scribes: "This man receiveth sinners and