

FORMATION OF THE CHARACTER

is therefore as important as information of the intellect. In fact, we can finally and satisfactorily justify instruction only by showing that it is a means to character-building.

Telling, therefore, is not teaching, as Dr. Trumbull has so wisely said. Character is the end, knowledge is one of the means. But the teacher who merely tells his class a number of things cannot be sure that any knowledge is being acquired, much less that any character-formation is going on. If I am to do nothing but tell what I know about the Lesson, then a row of chairs would do about as well as a row of boys. In one respect, indeed, the chairs would serve the purpose better than the boys; there would be less trouble in keeping them quiet while the telling was going on.

I would not be understood as belittling instruction. No man can be called educated unless his mind is well stored with valuable information. And every teacher must, in the nature of the case, tell his pupils a great many things. But his work is only one-third done when he has imparted the information. He must, in the second place, see that the knowledge is really appropriated, grasped, reconstructed; and he must, in the third place, see that knowledge and aspiration and action are linked together in the closest way, so that they become parts of one whole, strands in the single cable of the inner life. This is a very difficult task, and there is no short and easy road to its achievement; but nothing less than this can be the faithful teacher's aim.

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BOOKS FOR THE TEACHER

The lessons for the second half of 1904 are taken almost entirely from the First and Second Kings, the exceptions being one Lesson from 2 Chronicles, and a Lesson from each of the prophets, Amos and Isaiah. A list of helpful books, with their prices, is here given.

Wide reading on the Lessons is, of course, desirable. But teachers are busy people, whose time for study is very limited. They

need books containing the most vital information in the compactest form. In most cases a book or two from the following list, and these of no great bulk, will furnish a sufficient working library for the half-year.

So far as commentaries are concerned, the Cambridge Bible on 1st and 2nd Kings covers all but three of the Lessons, and costs 70c. for each of the two volumes. The volumes on 2 Chronicles; Isaiah, chs. 1 to 39; and Amos are 90c. each. The volumes of the Expositor's Bible on each of the Books from which the Lessons are taken are sold at \$1.16 apiece. Besides these commentaries, there is that of Jamieson, Fausset and Brown (2 vols., \$3.50, not sold separately). It covers the whole Bible and is very valuable.

Davis' Bible Dictionary (\$2.00); Kent's History of the Hebrew People, The Divided Kingdom (\$1.25); Townsend MacCoun's The Holy Land in Geography and History (2 vols., \$2.00); Dr. Alexander Whyte's Bible Characters, Ahithophel to Nehemiah (\$1.25); and Dr. W. M. Taylor's Elijah the Prophet (\$1.50), are all useful.

EXPERT CONVENERS

Rev. Mr. Jaffaray, of Macleod, who is the Convener of the Presbytery of Calgary's Sabbath School Committee, has undertaken a very interesting line of duty, that of visiting personally the various Sabbath Schools of the Presbytery. In this engagement he is assisted by the other ministers in the bounds. His visits have brought a decided uplift to many Sabbath School workers. He seeks to "encourage them in their work, to incite them to higher ideals, to take up practical difficulties and to assist with suggestions as to the equipment of the teacher and the school."

"This plan," says Rev. Dr. Herdman, Superintendent of Missions, "might be well recommended to other Presbyteries. Just as in Home Mission work the Home Mission Convener comes into personal touch with all the ministers and their fields, and with a few years of experience may well be looked upon as an expert in his duties, so, if our Sabbath School Conveners could assume a like attitude toward the Sabbath School work within