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CASH PRIZES of TEN DOLLARS and FIVE DOLLARS for the two best Stories for THE KING'S OWN, such as will increase the love of boys and girls for God, nature, home, country. Stories *not to exceed 1000 words in length*; manuscript to be signed by motto, which is also to be endorsed on outside of sealed envelope containing name and address of writer. Manuscripts to be addressed to Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, Editor of THE KING'S OWN, Confederation Building, Toronto, and must be on hand on or before September 1st. The awards to be announced in THE KING'S OWN of November 3rd. The Editor reserves the right to use any manuscripts in the competition.

The statement that one sees here and there, to the effect that the attendance at Sabbath School is declining, seems not to apply in our Church. The Report for 1899, lately presented to the General Assembly, says: "There are 2,698 ordinary schools reported, an increase of 260, and 120 Home Department Schools, a total increase of 380 schools." Of these schools, 135 sent no details of attendance, but in the 2,563 schools which did do so, there are 21,016 officers and teachers, a gain of 2,025, and 177,698 scholars, a gain of 17,548. Counting the 3,782 in the Home Department Schools we have a total of 202,496 in attendance, an increase of 23,355.

The practice of Memorizing is evidently, also, gaining in favor. There is an increase of 27,333 in the number of scholars committing Scripture to memory and of 6,630

in the number of those committing the Shorter Catechism. Anything that the General Assembly can do to encourage memorizing will be well done. The struggle to find a place for the spiritual in the rush of our modern life is becoming more and more severe; all the more need, therefore, of pre-occupying the ground. The words of Holy Scripture, and the statements of Scripture truth which the Catechism contains, once committed to memory are a permanent possession—a silent, but potent force amidst the drifting currents.

The other side of the story is that 659 schools make no mention of the memorizing of Scripture and 856—one third of the whole number reporting—no mention of the Catechism. The remedy should not be difficult. It requires no technical skill to hear "verses" or the Catechism. A conviction that it is important, and diligence and faithfulness in seeing that the work is done, will answer the end.

Two Essentials in Teaching

By Rev. James D. Falconer, B.D.

The first of the two is *art*. We are apt to forget that teaching is an art. Music is the art of calling forth harmony from the instrument which of itself is voiceless. Sculpture is the art of bringing out of the cold marble a perfect image. Teaching is the art of bringing out of a living nature the harmony of goodness and the image of a perfect character. As such, teaching is the finest of the arts. The child is of very delicate material,