

# The Teachers Monthly

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Have you seen our new ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE?

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## Answering by Fire

In the famous contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, the proof that Jehovah was the true God was His answering by fire. When the flames kindled from heaven consumed the sacrifice presented by the solitary champion of Israel's ancient faith, while the frenzied cries of Baal's devotees brought no response from the brazen sky, the people were convinced, and went over to the side of Elijah.

God still answers by fire. Like the sun, from whose light nothing can hide and whose rays illumine every pathway, the Spirit and word of God search the heart, discovering every wicked thing and revealing the right way.

The fires of God consume all that is evil. Only that which is true and righteous can endure in the crucible of His infinite holiness. In that fierce blaze all the dross in human works must perish and only the pure gold will remain.

God answers by fire in all the ceaseless energy that exerts itself throughout the world of nature and in all the events of history. In Him is the origin of all the forces of the universe, and these operate under His direction and control.

It is the God who answers by fire who rightfully claims our undivided worship and service.

## The Real Presence

*By Rev. Gordon Dickie, M.A.*

A great many people make much of the fact that God is in nature. They like to think of fellowship with Him, mediated through the rocks, the rivers and the flowers. They find sermons in stones, messages in the brooks, God in everything. Nor do they need another God, or another temple in which to worship. Taking the thought of Van Dyke they say:

"God of the open air

To Thee I make my prayer."

This is well, but it is not the true source of fellowship. In spite of his love for nature, man often feels that he is an outsider in this world in which God has placed him. Though he is in the world, he is not of it. If you watch the growing grain or the springing flower, you feel that they are in living union with the earth. They grow and draw from the soil the power which upholds them. They seem to understand nature. She responds to them, and they dwell together in the world quite peacefully. But it is not after this