

The Teachers Monthly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Editor

Vol. XVI.

Toronto, March, 1910

No. 3

Attention is called to Dr. George W. Bailey's article, page 114, on the World's Sunday School Association and its world-wide work and plans.

What the International Sunday School Association is, and is doing on this continent is well set forth in the following: "An organization that covers all of North America; managed by a Committee of one hundred of America's choicest business and professional men, all without salary; calling into its service as officials in the various States, Provinces and Counties, more than one hundred thousand earnest, unsalaried and voluntary officials; engaging in its enterprises more than twenty millions of people; causing the issuance, without expense to itself, of probably more printed matter than any other organization in the world; and all this at an expense for administration of one-third of one cent per annum per capita of its constituency; and having as its sole purpose the honoring of God and the betterment of the world by the building up of strong Christian character; by bringing the best in each denomination to the support of all."

"But"

A courtier high in the king's favor and a mighty captain was Naaman, so runs the olden story—"but he was a leper". There was a gnawing worm at the root of his prosperity, a bitter drop in the overflowing cup of his happiness. The victim of a loathsome, incurable disease, what wonder if he had forsaken his tasks and his pleasures, to await, in gloomy and idle despair, the doom that seemed so certain and so inescapable.

The "but" in Naaman's story, however, is a door turning on a double hinge. He was a leper, *but*, in spite of that, he continued to spend the strength and talents left to him in the service of his king and country. A cruel and relentless foe was sapping his powers, and daily approaching nearer to the citadel of life. But this soldier who had fought many a hard battle, held steadily on in his work, resolved that, when the end came, it should find him at the post of duty.

A "but" of some sort confronts us in any service to which we are called of God,—some weakness or defect apparently unfitting us for that service. The obstacle, however, like Naaman's leprosy, is only a swinging door, which a resolute hand may push into the upward path that leads to success and triumph. A handicap is no real hindrance to those who work for God.

"Borne of Four"

By Rev. A. T. Taylor, D.D.

Two hundred ministers met, not so long ago, to talk things over. The thing most in question was the winning of souls, how and when to do it. One of them declared that the time above all others was early in the teens, and, as proof, he asked those present who had decided for Christ before the age of fourteen, to stand. Nine out of ten of them stood.

What tremendous emphasis this lays upon those who have most to do with the children? It is time, is it not, that we should bring the whole matter to the front, in all our planning, and make it supreme in all our work.

I got a suggestion one day from a new reading of the story of the forgiven and healed paralytic (Mark 2:1-12). There was the usual curious, spiritually-indifferent