

The Officers of the School

By Rev. A. Macgillivray

III. THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

He is a man of the type of Barnabas,—“a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith”. To his chief and School, a veritable “son of consolation”. A modest man, but with enough “blessed assurance” to believe that, since God sent him into this world, and by His Word and Spirit called him into His kingdom, God also “sent his work with him”. As an honest man, he is seeking his work, that he may live profitably by the doing of it. He comes to his pastor or superintendent, and says, “Here I am, ready to serve; if I can help in any way, command me.”

Because his chief magnifies his office, as is becoming, his assistant is rarely in charge.

He is a prompt man, not infrequently the first man there, even more frequently the last to leave. He always finds things to do, rooms to arrange, chairs to place, windows to open or close; and many other things are the better of his personal touch.

He is a gracious man, with a bright smile and kind word for the child that comes early. Strong and lasting friendships are formed in the brief confidential conversations held with the lone scholar that is a few minutes ahead of time.

He is a vigilant man, with an eye quick to notice a new scholar, and a heart to feel for the timid little stranger that has for the first time crossed the threshold. He finds out the name, attainments, address, and the rest, of the new recruit, and decides upon the class in which to place him, introduces him like an old friend, to the teacher, who in turn introduces him to the members of the class that are now arriving.

The assistant may well be entrusted with the supervision of the roll, to see that new names are added with address and date of entrance, and that the names of those no longer attending are removed. Schools have not yet come into their own in the matter of accurate enrolment.

Considering the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of teachers, the assistant may with advantage be allowed a class. He will do much for them; they will not fail to

do some things for him and the School. They will be enthusiastic “aids” in many a matter that will contribute to the School’s efficiency.

He will be given a part in the opening and closing exercises of the School, that he may become familiar with all the duties of superintendent, which higher office he will one day fill, and that all the more efficiently, because he has served and trained in a subordinate position.

It has been assumed that a man usually fills the office. Women have filled it, and are filling it with rare grace and marked efficiency and acceptance; it is a question of aptitude.

In a large School, with several departments, the assistants are Departmental heads, responsible for the conduct of their particular Department, and zealous for its advancement.

Above all, the assistant superintendent watches for souls, and will often gladden his minister’s heart by bringing to him scholars that he has helped to decision for Christ, and who desire to confess Him openly.

Toronto

Sunday School Work in the New Hebrides

By Rev. Joseph Annand, D.D.

Principal, Training Institution, Tangoa, Santo

[The third of a series of articles on Sabbath School work in our foreign fields.]

The Sunday School in the New Hebrides is an important adjunct to the evangelistic work. It differs from the Schools at home in some particulars. Here we gather in all ages, from the infant in its mother’s arms, up to the gray-headed men and women. Even those who cannot read, may come and hear, and thus increase their knowledge of the way of life.

The Lesson Helps, so generally followed in the home lands, are very little, if at all, used in this mission. Few indeed of the teachers beyond the mission families can make any use of them in the English language. The number of dialects in which the people are taught, makes the translating and printing of the Helps in their own tongues impracticable. The missionaries find that to take a Gospel or an Epistle suits their purpose better than to try to cover the whole Bible in a few years. The “milk” of the Word must be more used here than the “strong meat”.