

will become more manifest as we make a little study of the *personnel* of the classes themselves.

For instance, not a few are aged members of the church, once active and interested, but unable longer to keep up with all the church's doings, and who, for this very reason, are in danger of being forgotten and left behind in the onrush of present activity! Some are young and busy mothers of large families, actually prevented by the necessities of their little ones from attending the sessions of the school, where they formerly received so much help and centered so much interest. Others we have are men in middle life and older, who have never gone to Sunday-school, and are ashamed to begin now on account of their conscious ignorance on Bible themes. Still others are what we may call the very rich. We all recognize that in religious matters there are two classes of people who are very likely to be neglected—the very poor and the very rich. Great riches bring a sort of spiritual isolation. But there is something about this Home Department work that makes it especially applicable to the rich, many of whom are sincere Christian people. And I can testify that not a few of such are among the most ready to accept this method of holding them to their Bible.

One of our classes, and such might be formed in any Church, is known as a

#### CORRESPONDENCE CLASS.

The visitor is one of the elders of the church, and carries on the class entirely by correspondence. Its membership is made up of members of the church and congregation who, for various reasons, are away from home. One in our class is in Dunbar, Scotland; one in India, one in China, two in Canada, one in Ohio, two in Central New York, etc. It is certainly a most admirable way of keeping up the interest of those forced to be away from their church and home. Better still, we know that some of our families have been led to study the lessons together as families, usually on Sunday afternoon. So not only are parents and children enabled to keep the Lord's Day pleasant and profitably at home, but the certain result must be an ever-closer drawing of family ties, and an increasing interest in each other's spiritual welfare; and why not expect that many souls will be led to Christ through this household union in the study of the Word of Life?

A wealthy lady I know of and her maid, both unable to attend Sabbath School, are members of the Home Department, and every Sunday afternoon, for an hour, study the lesson together. One member of our department is a cripple, two are paralytics, two are railroad engineers, one is a confirmed invalid in our city hospital, another is blind and has her lesson read to her. To these, and to all such, as well as to just as many of the non-church-going, in city and country alike, as can be induced to join, the Home Department

offers an opportunity to study the Word of God systematically, and in connection with the Sabbath-school, and gives them the same privileges of membership as if they were in regular attendance during the Sabbath-school hour; and, above all, the blessed opportunity of growing in grace and in the knowledge of that Word which alone is able to make wise unto salvation, while everyone engaged in promoting the cause is richly blessed in the doing.

#### IN COUNTRY CHURCHES.

Now, there may be some who will say: "Yes, this is all very well for the city churches, and such like, but how about its application to our widely-scattered country districts and communities—will it work there?" I answer: Nowhere will it work better. It is especially appropriate in its adaptation to country and sparsely-settled communities, because it deals with the individual and in the home, and does not attempt to congregate its members. Furthermore, it is especially fitted to reach in these districts those very classes of people who are not, and cannot, be reached by the Church in its usual lines of work. Some live too remote from any place of assembly; others are in straightened circumstance, and cannot dress as well as their more fortunate neighbors who do attend church and Sunday-schools; others there are who cherish some prejudice or grudge against the church, or its minister, or an officer, or some of its members. It is with just such people that the Home Department will show its admirable adaptation. Such persons are pleased to receive a friendly call from some man or woman in the community who comes in as a neighbor would, without pretence or show of official or professional spirit. And while they may not have any interest in Bible study for its own sake, yet the plan commends itself to them because of its naturalness, its simplicity, and its easy accomplishment. But once begun, by-and-by they become interested, and oftentimes with most happy results. In one case, I know of, a visitor called at a home to secure the membership of the lady. The husband, who had been a prominent church member, but who had been led astray through intemperance and had not attended church or Sunday-school for years, also expressed the desire to become a member. In a very short time he found his way back to both church and school, and is now a regular attendant and a temperate man.

Again, this method admirably helps to solve

#### THE VACATION PROBLEM,

especially as we meet it in our city churches. Its workings can be extended in each school to all those who, for longer or shorter periods, go away for recreation, pleasure or travel.

But not only does it meet summer needs in city schools, but winter needs in weaker