

lates more strongly the desire after better things, than the knowledge that some one else believes in us and in our possibilities for good.

#### NOW FOR THE EXAMINATION

The lessons of the Teacher Training Course close for the season with this issue of the *TEACHERS MONTHLY*. They have been widely used within our own church, and have attracted attention abroad. The church is under a debt of obligation to Rev. Professor Falconer, Presbyterian College, Halifax, and Rev. Professor Ballantyne, Knox College, Toronto, by whom respectively the lessons on the contents and growth of the New Testament, and New Testament geography and institutions, have been prepared.

For full particulars in regard to the first Annual Examination in the Teacher Training Course on May 9, apply to Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D., Confederation Life Building, Toronto. The arrangements made will permit candidates to write without leaving home.

#### PAUL AND PERILS

*By Rev. Robt. Johnston, D.D.*

It is the crises of life that reveal character. There are virtues for the exercise of which the commonplace round provides a full field; but the depths are sounded only in the occasional experiences that try all that is in a man. In estimating a life we want to know how it bears the stress of temptation, of anguish, of peril.

Paul was familiar with danger. There was scarce a city that he visited in which opposition was not aroused that threatened his life. He was a warrior, and did not count the perils that beset his path, and when in the path of duty he faced danger, there was no swerving from that path to avoid it. More than this, Paul recognized in danger the circumstances that promised the more abundant fruit for his toil. He might have found pathways of comparative safety in obscure places, but instead he sought the conspicuous arenas, where in the face of all opposing forces he might wage warfare for his Lord. His soul responded to "the stimulus of splendid difficulty."

The apostle's conduct, when warned by Agabus of the dangers that awaited him at Jerusalem, is full of inspiration and instruction. He listened to the warning, so graphically uttered, and he could not but listen to the affectionate entreaties of those who loved him best, as they besought him not to risk a life so precious to them and to the entire church. But, having listened, there is no tremor in his voice nor sign of indecision in his bearing, as he gently but firmly silences their appeal, and declares, "I am ready, not to be bound only, but also to die." He had heard a voice which no warning of prophet or appeal of friend could silence for him—the voice of his Lord. To his heart it was clear that duty and opportunity called him to Jerusalem, and neither afflictions nor bonds nor death itself could deter him from the way that duty lay. To know the path of duty was for Paul the end of all controversy. So it should be for us, for we may rest in the assurance that cheered the great apostle, that He who appoints the way will give also the strength for its toil and the courage for its danger, and whether by our suffering or our service, by our life or our death, will accomplish through us His blessed will and His eternal purpose.

The apostle's conduct recalls the bearing of another hero of the faith. When Luther determined to obey the Emperor's summons, and appear before him at Worms, his friends gathered round him and joined entreaties, protestations and tears in an endeavor to persuade him from a venture, that to them seemed to imperil the life of their leader, and in that life the progress of the Reformation. But to Luther God had spoken, as to Paul; the way of duty was clear, and with equal firmness the great Reformer silenced his too importunate friends, as Paul had silenced the disciples long before. Luther, as Paul, was

"One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward.

Never doubted clouds would break;

Never dreamed, though right were worsted,  
wrong would triumph;

Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight  
better,

Sleep to wake."