

alike—that Sunday School education is necessary to secure moral uplift and religious spirit.”

The time has passed, then, when it is necessary to plead for the Sunday School in any indirect way ; its most telling advertisement is a direct and clear statement of its object as the School of the Heart. Its curriculum is to teach love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. In its investigations it goes deeply into whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report ; and its great Teacher has summed it all together in His immortal saying, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart ; and thy neighbor as thyself.”

Make no secret of the fact that these things are taught in the Sunday School ; appeal unreservedly to the millions who are beginning to feel the great lack of an education which neglects the things of the heart, and the Sunday School will get a hold on the multitudes far beyond what it has yet known.

### The Tenfold Standard of Excellence

*By Rev. A. Macgillivray*

#### VII. GRADED INSTRUCTION

“Lead on softly, as the children be able to endure.” Such was Jacob’s counsel for the home journey. The “Perfect Teacher” said, “I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” Truth was to be unfolded gradually. It was the office of the Spirit to “lead into all truth.” Said the great apostle, to the Corinthian church, “I have fed you with milk and not with meat, for hitherto ye were not able to hear it.” The writer of the letter to the Hebrews says, “Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Graded instruction is a necessity determined by age, capacity and knowledge. Graded instruction at its best means individual teaching, a personal and accurate knowledge of the pupil. What a plea for the small class and “hand-picking !” What an encouragement for the small School !

“Lead softly” ; “milk for the babes.” Be the Lessons Uniform or Graded, the teaching,

to be effective, indeed to be worth anything, must be level to the age and capacity of the pupil. The skilful teacher can and will adapt his instruction to the needs of those before him. Almost all the Lessons of the Uniform International Series, in the hands of the trained, Spirit-led teacher, furnish mental, moral and spiritual food suited to the scholar of any age. Our own Publications furnish Pupils’ and Teachers’ Helps of various grades on the same Uniform Lesson, eminently helpful.

The School management that decides for the “more excellent way” will classify according to age. To make knowledge the standard, would, when attendance is voluntary, repel some. An “adult” who cannot read, though a beginner in learning, must be, by reason of his age, invited to the Senior Bible Class : he must be led along the more advanced way. The average School should and can have five grades—Beginners, Primary, Junior, Senior, and Adult Bible Classes.

Remembering the permanence of first impressions, the work in the two first departments will be done with the utmost skill and care, and here Graded Lessons suited to the years and capacity of the child will be taught, and by teachers who understand the opening mind, love the child, and above all the child’s Saviour. A rich harvest awaits those who sow in love and faith. For the other grades of the School, the trained teacher will have no difficulty with the Uniform Lesson, and, as the object of the Sabbath School is to teach the Book that reveals the will of the Father—the rule by which we are to live and serve, there will be but little desire or room for extra-Biblical material for teaching.

The well organized School, aiming at accomplishing all that is possible for the scholars, will supplement the Bible Lesson with the Shorter Catechism, The Question on Missions, and the memorizing of some of the most precious passages of scripture, as well as of a number of standard hymns. In after years these will be among the scholar’s most cherished treasures. The writer remembers a dear saint of God well past the century mark, blind and bed-ridden, who repeated