

FOR TEACHERS IN THE INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Intermediate Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY.

Can any person who keeps entirely by himself be a good Christian? A short discussion of that question will lead the way into this lesson with its topic, Our Christian Friendships. The great subject of our Lord's teaching was the kingdom; and it is interesting to observe what proportion of his counsels refers to the relations of its fellow members. We have here an excellent example of the bond of this Christian society.

A practical expression of friendship. Picture to the class Paul's condition as he wrote this letter to the Philippians. He was a prisoner, and even before this imprisonment of two years at Rome, the aged apostle was ready, "to die for the unity of Christ's church and the glory of his name." Certain privileges, however, were accorded the prisoner, Acts 28 : 30. "Although a prisoner, chained by the wrist to a Roman soldier, who was one of his guard, he was allowed to live in his own lodgings, and his friends were suffered freely to visit him."

Sir William Ramsay has put forth the theory that such privileges were made possible by a legacy received shortly before his imprisonment. We know that hard toil at his trade of tentmaker had formerly been necessary to enable him to carry on his missionary labors. But although apparently not in financial need at this time, the contributions from Philippi sent through Epaphroditus (v. 18) are very gratefully received as an expression of real sympathy. Note the beautiful sentiment expressed in v. 17. Ask the pupils to suggest an opportunity for emulating the Philippian example. Be prepared to give in-

formation about the place of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund in the Forward Movement.

A condition of friendship's permanence. Have the class name conditions of a permanent friendship. What place has appreciation of favors and its grateful expression? Emphasize the selfishness that frequently attends the receiving of gifts. Note the large-hearted courtesy that makes the apostle forget about his own condition, and overflows in this gracious note of thanks. Paul's gratitude is more beautiful because he has a sturdy independence, v. 11. Ask the pupils to point out the several phrases which show the depth of Paul's appreciation. There are the good intention of v. 10, and the unique former act of v. 15 (see 2 Cor. 11 : 7-9) and the repeated generosity of v. 16. Would not this friendship be stronger after the Philippians' generosity, and Paul's gratitude so beautifully expressed?

The basis of this beautiful friendship. Test the pupils to see whether they understand why the apostle "rejoiced in the Lord" when the Philippians showed their generous spirit. With the heart of a true pastor his joy consists in seeing this fruitage of a Christian spirit, v. 17. It is even a sacrifice of religious significance, v. 18. How can the apostle repay them? In v. 19 he merely hints at commending them to God. The Philippians' generosity and the apostle's gratitude alike are based on a Christian life. (See Golden Text.) Ask to see the Notebook plans for increased friendliness.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Junior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the JUNIOR QUARTERLY.

Begin this lesson by referring to the sufferings of some of our soldiers in German prisons during the course of the great War, and to how people in all the allied countries sent parcels of food and other comforts to them. Ask why we all felt that no matter what sacrifices we made in order to send these gifts, we can never repay the debt we owe to the men for whom they were intended. Bring

out the idea that these prisoners were there in our behalf and that our liberties, and perhaps our lives, are safe because they risked theirs to protect us. By questioning the class on the knowledge gained from their Quarterly, develop the fact that this week's lesson is part of an epistle or letter to the Philippian Christians by Paul from a Roman prison, and the cause and length of his im-