

# The Teachers Monthly

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From all that we can gather, our Departmental Graded Lessons, in their first year, have given eminent satisfaction throughout the church. They have been used in all sorts of Sunday Schools, city and country, large and small, one-roomed and many-roomed, by skilled and unskilled teachers. The universal testimony is that they have met the situation.

They now begin their second year. We are looking for a large extension in their use in our own Sunday Schools, and we have pleasure in stating that the Canadian Methodist Church, recognizing the value of our Graded Lessons, has arranged with us for an edition of them for their Sunday Schools. The special denominational material will, of course, be different for each church, ours covering, as previously, our church's Scripture Memory Passages, Catechism, "Great Hymn," and Question on Missions. These selected scripture and hymn for the opening worship of the whole School each Sunday, is also a feature which has been greatly valued.

## The Great Optimist

Jesus is the great optimist. To no one else, in so complete a sense as to him, can be applied Browning's noble words:

"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."

In Jesus the most confident optimism was held along with the fullest knowledge. He had taken the full measures of the forces

arrayed against his infant kingdom, and how feeble, in the eyes of the world, its champions seemed; and yet no question as to the ultimate triumph of that kingdom ever rose in his mind.

Jesus not only knew the evil that is in the world; he also felt it. With all the sins and sorrows of mankind, he had the keenest sympathy. He was sensitively alive to all the guilt and suffering round about him. The world's woe was constantly upon his spirit; but the tremendous load did not crush him into despair. He knew that after the darkest night the sun would rise, that, out of the sad welter of wickedness and misery, a new world would arise which should be the abode of perfect righteousness and joy.

Jesus was an optimist in spite of apparent defeat and failure. Beyond the cross he saw the throne of a universal dominion, on the farther side of the grave he knew that his would be the power of an endless life. Victory he was assured was the final goal for him and his cause, however his and its foes might seem, for the moment, to prevail.

In the optimism of Jesus every follower of his should share. The year just entered upon may seem full of difficulties and discouragements. Not one of these, or all of them together, can prevent the success and triumph of him who faces them in the might of the risen and living Christ.

## "After Many Days"

By Rev. A. L. Fraser, B.D.

He was taking dinner at a Canadian hotel, and noticed that three men,—commercial travelers they proved to be—were just finishing theirs as he sat down.

One of the three lingered and said to the new arrival: "Are you not Mr. McE—?"