

scholars, two teachers, Miss Grant and Miss Munro. My, but they are learning fast. Just think of 50 getting Diplomas from General Assembly, besides learning all their school lessons. My mother says we are helping to make them Christians.

Now all through Cape Breton and Nova Scotia we have lots of these foreign boys and girls and I am going to save more of my pennies, and very soon they will be able to help themselves and also help others. I know if all *our* boys and girls could visit these Schools, they *all* would want to help and have these Schools wherever we have foreigners in Nova Scotia.

Good night, Jim.

Will tell you a lot more when I get home.

DICK.

—The Message

Christmas with the Beginners

BY RAE FURLANDS

Of all the holiday seasons during the year the one most peculiarly belonging to little children is Christmas. Even personal birthdays take quite a secondary place.

A teacher of Beginners is the most fortunate of all women, saving only a mother. She has the opportunity of making impressions during the years when they mean the most.

If Santa Claus, with all the commercialism imparted to that title by unthinking people, be allowed to get possession of the child's mind first, there will be little or no room for the real Christmas thought.

The children should not be deprived of the true Santa Claus spirit, but it is so much perverted, especially in our large cities at the present time, that its helpful side is frequently lost sight of altogether.

It will not be out of place here to implore teachers never to let a person dressed to represent Santa Claus come into your School unless the children are fully informed that he is only a representative.

It seems unnecessary to add that even this should not take place during the Sunday session, and yet one Sunday School did have such a performance on the Christmas Sunday of a year ago. True, it was to *receive* gifts for the poor, not to give them, but the afternoon was utterly spoiled for one visitor at least. It is doubtful if the older pupils got any good and certainly the Primary and Beginners Departments appeared to have no thought for anything but that Santa Claus was there, so were all excitement.

Sunday School Work in China

A unique feature of the Sunday School work in China is, that the children are taught to read in connection with their Sunday School lesson. The China Sunday School Union issues a Lesson Primer, which has upon it, "Life Problem Pictures" from Chinese life. The lesson is begun by a discussion of some point of conduct suggested by the picture; class discussion follows, and the whole class session brings itself to a decision regarding some "specific act" which they are urged to "will to do" during the week following. One of the simplest things a member of the class may do is to take this little Lesson Primer and teach the big characters inside to some one in his own home or elsewhere. In the lessons for a year or two, some six hundred characters are taught, making it possible to read nine tenths of the characters in the New Testament.

With the Beginners, then, let us start the Christmas thought early. Shortly after Thanksgiving Day would not be too soon to first make mention of it. It grows so naturally out of the Thanksgiving thought. After talking about the gifts of grain, fruit and all the other things God sends to which special attention is paid until the time of ingathering is over, then the thought of God's greatest gift to the world follows in orderly sequence. Beginning to learn a Christmas hymn gives a good reason and forms a basis for conversation on each succeeding Sunday.

Bit by bit the Bible story is told and enlarged upon until it is all thoroughly familiar. The little ones will not enjoy it less, but more, when told in its entirety on the Christmas Sunday, because they have thus become familiar with it. A special illustration may be saved for that day if you so desire. For example, you may show how the Christ-child was swaddled or you may have some particularly attractive picture which the children have not seen before.

A gift from the teacher to each child of the half-cent size picture of a Madonna and Child, or other Christmas picture, mounted and supplied with a hanger is a much appreciated memento of the day, if you feel inclined to go to the expense and trouble of preparing them.

Unless the children are of the poorer class, they are usually surfeited with gifts at this season and have little opportunity of sharing of their very own, thus they lose the best side of Christmas giving. The Sunday School may