

# Sunday School

## Supplemental Lessons for the Sunday-school.

WHAT PROMINENT SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORKERS THINK OF THEM.

Last month attention was called to the Graded Supplemental Lessons, which have been adopted by our Church. It may be of interest to Sunday-school superintendents in the Central and Western Provinces to know what is being done in the East in regard to this work, and how it is regarded by prominent workers who have had experience with it. Here are some testimonials which ought to satisfy everybody that the plan is practicable and valuable:

### THEIR USE ESSENTIAL.

Mr. E. R. Machum, ex-President of the New Brunswick Provincial Sunday-school Association, says: "I have had a number of years' experience with Supplemental Lessons in the Sunday-school. I believe their use as a complement to the International Lessons is essential. In my opinion, the best course of Supplemental Lessons is that, prepared by Dr. Frank Woodbury, of Halifax, which has been adopted by our Church."

### VERY BENEFICIAL.

Mr. W. H. Studd, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Nova Scotia Provincial Sunday-school Association, writes:

"I have been using the Grading and Supplemental Lessons in my own school for the last two years. I find the Course to be very beneficial, giving my scholars more substantial Bible knowledge than the International Lessons. By these lessons, home study has been promoted, and the scholars have committed to memory passages of Scripture, which are indelibly fixed upon their minds. The ten lessons allotted to this work each Sunday, interferes in no way with the International Lesson, but rather adds interest to it on the part of the teacher, and taught. As to results: I feel and know that my scholars realize that the Bible is a book to be studied, that they are being equipped with the Sword of the Spirit. As they, in turn, take their places as teachers they will come to their work with a fuller realization of the magnitude of their office."

### THOROUGHLY PRACTICABLE.

Mr. W. L. Tuttle, Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday-school of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, writes:

"We find the course thoroughly practicable, and the children are interested in it. I think there should be no trouble for the teacher to manage this work, in addition to the International Lesson. The teachers sometimes find it difficult to confine the Supplementary Lesson to the time set apart for it, thus curtailing the time for the main lesson, but this should easily be avoided. The results are a more complete and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible, a more systematic memorizing of Scripture passages and choice hymns, and, in the periodical examinations, a means of testing the amount of knowledge acquired by the school."

### INTRODUCED INTO 120 SCHOOLS.

Mr. T. K. Kennedy, Superintendent of Chalmers Presbyterian Sunday-school, Halifax, Nova Scotia, says:

"In regard to the Supplemental Sunday-school Course of Study, for the first two years of its introduction in Nova Scotia, I had the honor to be its superintendent. In that connection, by personal visitation of schools and by correspondence, I succeeded in having it

introduced into over 120 schools. The course we adopted is a very good one, and can be easily introduced into any school and run coincident with the International Lesson. Indeed, I have no hesitation in saying that the supplementary work is more valuable of the two, and tends to make the school more of a school than the other."

### A VALUABLE ADJUNCT.

Mr. A. M. Bell, Superintendent of Charles Street Methodist Sunday-school, Halifax, says:

"In my opinion, this is a very valuable adjunct to the International Lessons. Its success must depend to a large extent on the one who is made responsible for working it through the teachers in the school. In our school, as in some others that I know, we have detached one of our best teachers to attend to this, and by frequent reviews and drills, the scholars are getting an acquaintance with the Bible, which it would be impossible to acquire without such a scheme. Personally, I am strongly in favor of it, and we find that ten minutes can be given to this at each session without interfering with the International Lesson."

### DOES NOT INTERFERE.

Rev. R. A. Hillis, a Church of England minister of Halifax, writes:

"I am very glad to be able to testify to the value of the Supplemental Lessons Course, as issued by the Nova Scotia Sunday-school Association. During the year 1903 I put it to a practical test in our school, and am very much pleased with the results. We made it the basis of our grading last advent, and in the majority of the classes I found that the work had been carried on very satisfactorily. I do not find that the new work interferes at all with the regular work. We have our regular home study work, and the Bible lesson is taught just as before. Of course none of our supplemental work is used as home work. It is all oral teaching. As proof that it has not interfered with the regular work, I find that the marks of the scholars for 1903 on the regular work were better on the whole than in 1902. In order that the supplemental work may not break in on the time of the lesson study, I insist on the teachers not spending more than ten minutes at it. As to results, I have frequent testimony from the parents as to the quantity of Scripture the children are memorizing. This I consider its best feature, along with the amount of general Bible knowledge that is essential. It is this, too, that really facilitates the rest of the teaching, for increased knowledge of the Bible always makes teaching easier. On the whole, I can heartily recommend the Supplemental Lessons. Teachers and scholars alike seem to enjoy the work. I feel convinced that your General Conference has done a wise thing."

### SCHOLARS ARE INTERESTED.

To show how the course works in a country school, the following note from Mr. S. G. Brew, Superintendent of a small Methodist Sunday-school at Nictaux, N.S., will be of value:

"We have been using the Supplemental Lessons of the Nova Scotia Sunday-school Association in our Sunday-school for the past year, and think we have derived great benefit from them. As our school never studied the Supplemental Lessons, the whole school commenced with the No. 1 leaflet, each teacher taught the lesson in the class for three or four Sundays. The last Sunday in each month the lessons for the month were reviewed by the superintendent, or one of the teachers. We usually spend from five to eight minutes on the Supplemental Lesson each Sunday, before taking up the regu-

lar lesson for the day. We find the Course to be quite practicable, and the scholars to be very much interested in the lessons. The teachers do not find it at all difficult to teach the lessons. I think the results will be good, as it gives the whole school a knowledge of the Bible, which they would not obtain in any other way."

## Concentrate.

Did ever occur to you that successful teaching does not mean getting the greatest number of "points" from the lesson? The teacher who flies off every possible angle to "drive home a thought," is in danger of sending his pupils home with the confused idea that the teacher made the lesson very interesting and nothing more. The effort to make in rapid succession a number of impressions has, as a matter of course resulted in a blurred composite that means nothing. It is only the teacher who has made the lesson the subject of selections study who knows how to enforce the one point.

Go over the lesson with all of the light you can possibly obtain shining upon it, and make up your mind as to just what one thought may be made of greatest value to the everyday lives of your pupils. Then, with God's help, and all of the earnestness that is within you, seek to impress it upon your scholars.—The Lookout.

## The Sunday School in England

The following is the number of scholars connected with the nonconformist churches in England:

Baptists .....	539,386
Congregationalists .....	670,764
Presbyterians .....	94,141
Wesleyans .....	978,234
Primitive Methodists .....	449,728
Calvinistic Methodists .....	204,874
United Methodist Free Churches .....	191,450
Methodist New Connexion .....	55,795
Bible Christians .....	44,993
Society of Friends .....	53,769
Seven smaller bodies .....	76,714
	3,389,848

## Teacher Training.

America has taken hold of teacher-training with her accustomed vivacity and determination. Dr. H. M. Hamill, chairman of the Educational Committee of the International Sunday-school Convention, is convinced that teacher-training is the supreme need of the school. The modern schoolboy is taught by the finest teachers in the world, and therefore, knows good teaching from bad. He can tell whether the Sunday-school teachers' Bible knowledge is genuine and thorough, or only "make-believe." One boy in North Carolina refused to go to the Sunday-school. When pressed for a reason he said, pointing to the day-school: "They teach a feller something down here; but up there—with a lot of disputation, towards the village church—" they just mess with me." The Sunday-school teacher, says Prof. Hamill, and not the Sunday-school lesson, is the chief concern, and this was shown at Denver, Chicago, and Winona. Hitherto the Church has spent the bulk of its money on fine churches, pulpits, and choirs, and starved its best auxiliary. But a change is evident, within and without the church. The time is coming when the untrained Sunday-school teacher will be without excuse or standing. This is sound doctrine, and as such welcome in Great Britain as in the States.—S. S. Chronicle, London, Eng.