

The Teachers Monthly

Rev. E. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Editor

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A Fivefold Challenge

The challenge of the Sunday School to the church has seldom been better put than by Rev. A. Macgillivray, the Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, on Sabbath School night at the General Assembly in June.

There is first, he said, the challenge of the 160,000 homes of our church, whence the Sunday School scholars come, that the School should cooperate with them in the vital task of bringing to Christ and bringing up in Christ's service the children and the young people.

There is the challenge of the 75,000 little ones, too young to come to the Sunday School. "What are you attempting for us", is the cry of these babes, "in the name of Him who came to earth as a little Child?"

There is the challenge of the 176,000 boys and girls, no longer infants on the Cradle Roll, but not yet candidates for the Bible Class or the Young People's Society. "I never knew a child", said Mr. Macgillivray, "who at a certain period of life, did not want to come to Sunday School, did not love to come to Sunday School." "Incomparably the greatest asset of this church and of this nation is the child", he added with emphasis.

There is the challenge of the 60,000 youths and maidens. They have had given them, if the church has been faithful in its Sunday Schools and its homes, a taste and a bias towards the things of Christ and God. It has been a blessed work; for a mature person saved is simply a unit. A young life saved is a multiplication table.

There is the challenge of the newcomers. It is a sad fact that 80% of the immigrants who are coming to us from Scotland speak of the church with contempt. These throw

down the challenge,—“As the church of Jesus Christ, show what your gospel can do for us.” We should establish two hundred new Sunday Schools every year, in order to keep up with the incoming population.

There are 47,000 in the Bible Classes,—the flower of chivalry and consecration, this young manhood and young womanhood of the church.

“And what of the army of 26,000 teachers and officers? What are you doing for our teachers?” the speaker asked. “What are the 6,000 elders who are not teachers doing? What are the ministers doing, who are not in this work? Teachers, elders, ministers banded together, what might they not accomplish?” Mr. Macgillivray made a strong appeal to pastors to take up classes for the training of teachers for the Sunday School.

“And then, what of the Home Department, with its vast field of opportunity, the 160,000 homes of our church, and the other homes which have no church connection? The Home Department can be introduced in 99 homes out of every 100 successfully.”

“Such is the challenge”, he exclaimed in closing. “What will be the answer of the church?”

“But If It Be of God!”

By Rev. F. W. Murray

The mob was angry, the crowd was prejudiced, the preachers were standing practically alone. They had delivered their message. That was their only crime—the crime for which the mob demanded their life.

Dr. Gamaliel made a speech—a short speech. But it contained one conditional phrase of mighty import then and since. As to this work, if it be of men it will come to nothing, “but if it be of God”, what then?

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