

present" of those who welcomed your young minister twenty-five years ago, and the many who have since been added to our ranks. May the Master of the Feast make His presence felt by you and me, for I shall be with you in spirit. I cannot tell you how deeply I have been moved by the loving sympathy expressed by you, my beloved friends, reward you for all your kindness to me and mine." That Mr. Macdonnell may be speedily restored to health is the prayer not of his congregation only but of the Church he has served so well, as a whole.

#### The Sabbath School Teacher's Duties During the Week.

As the New Year approaches and with it the new series of lessons new thought and new plans, together with the falling off of some scholars after the Christmas and New year treat and prizes. The following thoughts on the duty of the teacher from the *Christian Observer* may be timely.

What we now refer to is not the preparation of the lesson during the week by the teacher. This is assumed. Nor is it the work of the class directly considered. This is taken for granted. But what we wish to consider, is the interest in and attention to the scholars on the part of the teacher during the week. Is the whole duty and service of the teacher done when the lesson has been carefully prepared, and diligently taught on the Sabbath day? Has the teacher nothing to gain by the interest taken in the scholars during the week?

To ask these questions is really to suggest the answer. We believe the teacher has a duty to the scholars in the class outside of the school, and during the week. We are sure also that the teacher who feels the importance of following the boys or girls under charge in the class out into their homes and daily circumstances will gain immensely in effective service in the school work. This pastoral side of the Sabbath school teacher's work is just as important as is the pastoral work of the minister in his sphere.

But how is this to be done? Some may say that there is no time. The teacher may be very busy with other daily duties, and the scholar may be at school or in some place of duty, so that there is, in cities especially, really no time, and little opportunity, for the teacher to see the scholar during the week.

In spite of all this, we are still inclined to the truth of the old adage in this, as in many other things: "Where there is a will there is a way." Hence, if some care and pains are taken, both time and season to be of some help to the scholar during the days of the week may be found. Some suggestions are offered.

First of all, the teacher should occasionally visit the scholars in their homes. This need not be done frequently, and to visit two or three times a year the homes of a class of six or eight scholars is no toilsome task. Such a visit will prove to the scholar that the teacher is in earnest, will have a good effect upon the parents in increasing their interest in the school, and will inform the teacher of the home circumstances of each scholar. It will be seen at a glance that these are decided advantages, and no earnest teacher who has ever tried this will hesitate to continue it, as a regular part of the teacher's duty.

Next, and in close connection with this, if any of the scholars are absent the teacher should not allow one week to pass without looking them up. If they are absent carelessly such looking up will have a good effect, and prompt both parents and scholars to do better in the future. If the absence be through sickness the teacher will find it almost

advantage to visit and inquire after the scholar's welfare as often as may be deemed expedient. Some little token of regard given at such a time, as well as some loving words for the Saviour spoken to the scholar, will be of benefit. Such tender ministry to the scholar in the season of sickness will do much to bind the scholar to the teacher with bonds of warm affections.

Further, it is well for the teacher to take a sensible interest in the temporal welfare of the member of the class. If it be a class of boys or girls at school or if they are of age to be entering on business of any kind, it is a good thing for the teacher in a wise and tender way to show an interest in the scholar at this time. Often a few words of kindly advice spoken by the teacher may be blessed to great good, and the door of the scholar's heart will always be kept open to receive the teaching of the Sabbath school. If the boys of the class are in shop or office, a friendly call and hand-shake, with some simple inquiry and words of cheer, will be a ray of sunshine into what may be a dark and toilsome day.

Again, as the scholars grow up, constant care should be exercised by the teacher to interest them in the services and work of the church. Not only should regular attendance upon the services be urged, but an interest in the work of the Church at home and abroad. Effort should be constantly put forth to lead the scholar to pursue regular Bible study, and read good, healthy literature. To be informed as soon as possible in regard to mission work, and of the need which the world has for the gospel, is of great value. The Sabbath school teacher can do much in this regard. And in the selection of good reading matter the teacher can also do much to help the scholar, for there is now so much vile trash published for boys and girls that a constant watch needs to be kept on what they read.

Once more, if, as often is the case, the teacher and scholar are separated for a while in the summer season, it will be found a good thing to write letters. If the teacher, during a month's absence, will write a couple of letters, best of all one for each Sabbath, to be read in the class by the substitute, which every teacher should provide when absent, a good purpose will be served, and the class will more gladly welcome the return of the teacher. If any of the scholars are away on vacation, the teacher will do well to write a letter or two to the absent scholars, and encourage them to send some evidence that they have studied the lesson and will obtain credit for this in the school reports. A little time spent in this way and a few postage stamps will do much good.

Finally. The teacher should seek to understand the temper and disposition of each scholar, and so be able to suit the teaching to each. Some reflection during the week upon what is noticed in the class on Sabbath; and learned from visiting, or in other ways, will be useful in this matter. The teacher should seek to obtain and retain the confidence of the scholars, and to show deep earnestness and true sincerity in all things. Then daily during the week, the scholars should be remembered by the teacher at a throne of grace, and their *salvation*, above all, should be constantly longed and prayed for. These are the hints we give. May the Master grant abounding grace to every Sabbath school teacher to be consistent in conduct and faithful in service every day of the week!

A Timely Gift.

The anonymous amount of Fifty dollars sent to Rev. Dr. Reid, from Paris Ontario, for distribution among the aged and the children has duly been distributed by him making many happy hearts for Christmas.