

The Sunday School

Patriotic Service.

The Sunday School of Bridge Street Church, Belleville, held a very interesting Patriotic Service on Dominion Day, Sunday, July 1st. The hymns, which were specially selected, referred to our Queen, our country, and our volunteers.

A feature of the service was the introduction of the new pastor, Rev. Dr. Crothers, who was received by the school rising and giving the Chautauqua salute, after which Mr. C. P. Holton offered special prayer on behalf of the pastor.

This Sunday School was the first school in Canada to hold a picnic. Last month it held its sixty-eighth outing, when a very delightful time was enjoyed.

Three Giant Foes.

Three giant foes with which the teacher of to-day has to contend are ignorance, intemperance and impurity. In combating with these there is need of constant watchfulness, fidelity and tact. The teacher who inspires her pupils with a love for that which is pure and true, and good has accomplished more to prevent the conquest of this life by these monster evils than could be done by any detailed description of the evils themselves. —*The Bible Teacher.*

Week-Day and Sunday.

A week-day rain has no power to keep a single man from attending to his business. The exposure required, the distance to go in the storm, may be ten times as great, yet it never occurs to an active business man that the rain in this case furnishes any reasonable ground for neglect. So glaring is the contrast between the effects of the Sunday and the week-day rain, that one might almost suppose that the former contained some peculiarly subtle and injurious qualities that were wanting in the latter—that it was laden with some peculiarly deleterious influences capable of endangering health and constitution. —*Our Young Folks.*

Scientific Teaching.

The modern method of learning is "scientific." In studying a Bible lesson from a prophet one seeks to know who the prophet was, when he lived, what were the circumstances of the people to whom he spoke, and what was the application of his message to his own times. Those things should be known, indeed; but they are not the points for which we specially study that message in our current lesson. We hearken to the old prophet speaking to the Jews in order that we may hear him giving a message from the Lord to our own souls and to our own times. —*Sunday School World.*

Men in the Sunday Schools.

The members of the official board of a leading Chicago Methodist Church, at a recent session of the quarterly conference, by resolution pledged themselves to attend Sunday School and perform any service the superintendent might request. The action of these official members was prompted by a statement of the difficulties the superintendent had to contend with in his efforts to prevent boys giving up attendance at Sunday School when they approach young manhood. The presence of so few men as workers or

attendants in Sunday School suggests to boys, as they reach the close of their teens, that Sunday School is a place for women and children—at least men appear to think it is not for men. The gentlemen to whom the superintendent's remarks were addressed had never before seen the matter in that light. Some of them had boys of their own, and all were desirous that the boys of the Sunday School should develop into earnest Christian men and active workers in the church. They realized that if they were to exert a proper influence over the boys and retain them in the Sunday School they must set them a better example by attending themselves.

The Sunday School referred to is not an isolated case. There are thousands of other Sunday Schools which need the inspiration which the presence and efforts of the men of the church give in order to retain the older boys and young men. Every official member of the church, and indeed every adult member should realize that the Sunday School is a place where all may study the Bible, and they should deem it a privilege, if not indeed a duty, to attend. It is to be hoped that one of the best fruits of the forward movement at the opening of the twentieth century will be a greater interest in the study of the Bible, and an increased attendance of men and women at Sunday School. —*Northwestern Christian Advocate.*

The Use of Helps.

Concerning the use of "Helps," Robert S. Burdette says:

"I don't deary the 'lesson helps.' God bless the teachers who have devised these helps for the busy men and women, the busy housekeeper, the busy merchant, the tradesman and the mechanic, the salesgirl and the seamstress, the wage-earners who teach in the Sabbath Schools with such scant time for study, and that time taken from their rest, and sleep, and hours of recreation—we must have these helps. Blessed be the restaurant and the cannery. Use all the helps you can get. But don't set the canned things on the table uncoked. And don't open the cans in the class. Get them ready for the table, as the women do the nice things they buy in the market place. Serve them in the daintiest china, in the clearest crystal. Do as the women folks do, even in the preparation of a dish they have prepared a thousand times; they ask other women if they know of any new way of cooking it. Exchange recipes with your neighbors; that's what Sunday School conventions are for—to learn new ways of serving old dishes."

Summer Class Letters.

How to keep track of the scholars during the summer is a problem that has exercised many a faithful teacher's ingenuity. Here is a plan reported to the editor by an earnest worker in a South Jersey Sunday School:

"I have been trying an experiment with one of my boys, and, first having waited to see whether the plan met with any success, will tell you about it. It is a very simple little plan, but I thought the suggestion might possibly be helpful to those teachers who are obliged to lose some of their scholars during the summer.

"One of my boys, whom I will call Harry, was intending to spend a few weeks on a farm. Knowing how difficult it often is for all on a farm to go both to church and Sunday School, I determined that he should feel himself a part of the class, even in his absence. So I stamped three envelopes and directed them to myself. On the inside of the flap of each I wrote a date: on the first, June 6th; on the second, June 13th; on the third, June 20th. In the June 6th envelope I placed a half sheet of written questions on the lesson for that date, and so with

the other two. I kept a copy of these questions, so that Harry would only need to number the answers in replying.

"Giving all three envelopes and some paper to Harry, I asked him if he would like to answer the questions while he was gone, not all at once, but one set out a week, on Sundays. I asked if I might expect the answers on Monday or Tuesday, and he said I might.

"The plan worked beautifully. On the first question sheet I asked Harry if he was having a pleasant time. I expected he would answer in a single word, but his answer was a nice letter, telling me what he had been doing. —*New Jersey Sunday School Messenger.*

What It May Do.

The Home Department has been adopted by many Sunday Schools, but a large number have not yet put it into operation. Some may be inclined to say that the Home Department is meant for places where there are more people to be reached than in their little neighborhood. But it does not demand a large number. You may carry its benefits to a single person, if there are no more. Is there not a grandmother, an invalid, a mother kept at home by the care of the household, who is deprived of Sunday School benefits in the ordinary form, but who would be helped if counted in with the Sunday School army? Yes, there must be one, and more than one, within the reach of every Sunday School in America who might be, and ought to be enrolled in a Home Department. Think of your own community and its needs. —*Sunday School World.*

Sunday School Rally Day.

When the members of our Sunday Schools return from their vacation it will be well to give them a formal welcome and inspire them to make a fresh and united start in another season of work in the home church. This would be calculated to increase good feeling and to emphasize the purpose to concentrate energy for renewed and sustained effort.

It is wise for us to recognize a very general and what seems a growing and well-established custom for Sunday Schools to have what they call a rally day after the scholars, teachers and officers have returned from their summer outing, for this may be utilized for some practical good.

Some do not admire the title Rally Day, and wish for a better name. Perhaps Reunion Day would be more significant, and yet there is some point in the idea of rallying like soldiers for a new campaign. At this season the members of the school reunite and come to the front for another determined charge, so it might be called the Sunday School Rally Day. That will do for the time being, and after a while, if a better title presents itself, it may be considered. —*Rev. T. B. Neely, D.D.*

Illustrations.

The teacher who gets his illustrations from the affairs of every day, from the newspaper, from the street, the country, the workshop, from any phase of real life, will never complain of lack of attention. The thrill of reality is always felt in such illustrations; they are alive; they are part of the present, and every young person will open eyes and ears to them. It is a mistake in getting our illustrations from the affairs of to-day is that we thus make familiar things alive with spiritual truth. The object and its teaching can be so thoroughly identified that the one will constantly proclaim the other, and thus our scholars will be sent into a world that is vocal with messages concerning invisible and eternal truth. —*Wm. T. Ellis.*