

The Teachers Monthly

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GRADED TEACHING A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

An excellent illustration of graded teaching was given at a recent Sabbath School Convention. Three skillful teachers showed in succession how the same lesson might be presented to scholars of the Intermediate and Primary grades, and to a young men's Bible class.

The lesson was "The Dedication of the Temple." First, the meeting became, for the time, a class of boys and girls. With a rapid fire of questions, the teacher brought out the facts connected with the preparation for, and the actual building of Solomon's temple. In a similar manner, the main features of the dedication services were dealt with. Then, in a few telling sentences, the application was made, first to the duty of helping in the erection of a building for missionary purposes, for which an appeal had been issued to the Sabbath Schools represented in the convention, and then to the building of character.

Next, a Primary teacher selected a class from the audience. A dozen or so of ladies and gentlemen took their place, as a Primary class, on a bench just in front of the platform. A point of contact was found in the class's recollection of the visit of the Duke of Cornwall, now the Prince of Wales, to Canada. A picture of the prince, and then of King Edward, was shown to the class. From king to palace was an easy transition. Then the class was introduced to the temple as a dwelling-place for the King of Kings. The facts of the lesson were

woven into a talk about kings and palaces. At the right moment, the church was brought in and the joy belonging to its services illustrated. The Golden Text was taught and the class went away, thinking of God's house as a very happy place.

Lastly, the lesson was taught by a successful teacher of a young men's class. It was the same lesson passage, but now such themes were discussed as the need of spirituality in the service of God, and the problem of getting men to take more interest in the work of the church.

That evening's programme was an important practical contribution to the discussion of the question of Graded Lessons vs. Graded Teaching. It demonstrated most effectively how, from the same lesson, and it, at first sight, not the most promising one, the needs of each grade in the school may be met.

THE CALL OF THE FOUR

The miracles of Jesus were also parables. Instead of an outward happening was used as a vehicle for conveying some spiritual truth to the mind of the beholder. The marvel was a manifestation. The wonder was weighted with wisdom. The visible fact teemed with heavenly teaching.

The lessons of each miracle were suited to its occasion. Nowhere was the fit closer than that of the draught of fishes to the call of the four earliest disciples. The meaning of the miracle, even dimly apprehended, would send them to their new vocation inspired with zeal and courage.

For one thing, it shows the hand of God