

# Teacher Training.

TEXT-BOOK : HOLBORN'S "THE BIBLE, THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEXT-BOOK."

Analysis by REV. PROFESSOR CAMPBELL, LL. D., Presbyterian College, Montreal.

At the beginning of another year we direct attention to the Assembly's plan of helping our teachers to a better preparation for their work. It is recommended that there be a weekly meeting for the preparation of the lesson in every School, when the passage for the ensuing Sabbath shall be carefully studied under the most competent leader that can be obtained. The *Notes on the Lessons* in the TEACHERS' MONTHLY are designed as a kind of text-book for this part of the lesson study. Besides this, one book is indicated every year which our teachers are invited to read carefully. Last year we went twice over "The Evidences of Christianity" under the guidance of Prof. Ross. This year Prof. Campbell will conduct us through "The Bible, the S. S. Teachers' Text-Book." This little volume gives the teacher, in a concise and interesting form, the most salient points about the Bible as a book, and should be mastered by every teacher and student of the volume. Prof. Campbell will give two pages of analysis and comment every month, and the teacher's meeting should be drilled for five or ten minutes upon half a page of this each week. The teachers who do this will go over the text-book twice during the year, and be permanently possessed of invaluable information regarding the Book of books. The Assembly offers a diploma to all who will take the examination of the course of "HIGHER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION" in the Department of *Teacher Training*. For the *Syllabus* and all information write to REV. W. FARQUHARSON, CLAUDE, ONT., the Vice-Convenor in charge of this branch of the S. S. Committee's work.

## INTRODUCTORY LETTER ADDRESSED TO SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

*Origin and Purpose of this book.* It originated with the Committee of the Sunday-School Union, in furtherance of a scheme of the International Committee for Normal Study. Its purpose is to be a manual of instruction for teachers on the subject of the Bible. *Its plan.* This is to give evidence for the genuineness and authenticity of the several books of the Bible; to describe the process of the formation of the Canon; and to set forth the unique features of Bible language and style; without discussing theories of inspiration.

*Considerations pointing to a Divine origin of the Bible.* 1. Its survival of all attempts to destroy it, as by Antiochus Epiphanes' decree in 168 B. C., by that of Diocletian in A. D. 303, by the Church of Rome, and by minor efforts to exclude it from literature. 2. Its survival of all attempts to destroy belief in it. The books written to overthrow faith in the Bible, from those of Celsus and Porphyry in the 3rd century to the present day, alone constitute a large library, but the Bible lives while they are all but forgotten. 3. Its vast circulation. The demand for it yearly increases. Of the Revised Version of the New Testament published in 1881, more than a million copies were ordered in advance from the Oxford University Press alone; and a Chicago newspaper published the whole of it, received by telegraph, in one issue. Of the Old Version about six million copies are sold annually, mostly in English, but also in 298 languages and dialects. It is no objection to say that much of this is the work of wealthy societies, because the Bible called these into existence. 4. Its enormous influence on modern literature. It has leavened poetry, philosophy, history, all literature but that of technical science. Orators use its language. Twenty-one volumes of the British Museum Library Catalogue are devoted to the heading "Bible;" and books written to expound it or enforce its teaching constitute a considerable proportion of the whole mass of literature. The wonder becomes greater when we consider that many of its authors were imperfectly educated men, living in a small