

stand outside in the rain, waiting for the street cars to carry them to their destination. It was a pitiful sight. All signs of starch had disappeared from the smart holiday frocks, and eager enthusiasm had died out in disappointed hearts. The Sunday hats, with their gay ribbons and bright flowers, were in a sorry plight, and the sweet young faces under them had lost their sunny smiles.

Just then one of the superintendents noticed two of her little girls holding a whispered conference. "All right," she heard one say; "I'll start it, if you'll follow." What were they going to do? She soon discovered, for without delay, they began to sing "There shall be showers of blessing." One after another joined the little leader, until the whole crowd, both inside and outside, were singing the wonderfully beautiful and appropriate hymn. Scarcely had the last notes died away, when the sweet voice of a sunny-faced lad began, "There is sunshine in my soul to-day." Once more the old depot rang with the music of a hymn, and echoed and re-echoed with the glad, sweet words.

The effect produced upon the crowd was indescribable. Men passing on the street reverently raised their hats, and some stopped and listened with uncovered heads until the hymns were ended. A great wave—like an electric shock—passed over the whole company. Faces brightened, hearts grew light and buoyant with hope, and enthusiasm reigned once more. Conditions had not changed, the rain still kept its steady downpour, but the clouds of discouragement had lifted, showers of blessing were descending, and God's own sunshine was flooding every soul and filling it with gladness.

The next time we wake up to find it raining on Sunday morning, instead of fretting about it, let us go to the throne of grace, and plead that showers of spiritual blessing may be poured out upon us and our dear scholars. And then let us leave it all with God, knowing that he rules the weather, as he does all else, and go to our duties as officers and teachers with bright faces, hearts full of faith, and souls full of sunshine. Perhaps the blessing on the rainy day will be "exceeding abundantly above" all that we should have thought of asking had it been a sunshiny day. God is able to make it so.—*Ex.*

## SEVEN GRACES OF A SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER.

Some graces are bestowed, others may be cultivated. The group in question consists of both classes.

Seven graces of a Sunday-school teacher may be indicated by the seven letters which form the word "teacher," each letter being the initial letter of one of the seven graces.

1. **TAXATION.**—The first grace of a Sunday-school teacher is the grace of taxation. The moment one consents to take charge of a Sunday-school class, at that very moment a requisition is in force, a tax is laid, and the person who has assumed the task is "under authority."

1. **Time.**—When you are once enrolled as a member of the teaching force, your time is no longer your own. The number of your spare afternoons and evenings will grow beautifully less. You will have to study your lesson, you will have to visit your scholars, you will have to attend meetings, you will have to be present at the sessions of the school, or you will be disloyal to the cause which you profess to serve.

2. **Strength.**—If you believe that it does not require muscular as well as mental and moral strength to teach in the Sunday-school, then get rid of that idea, or do not enlist in that army. Solomon said that "much study is a weariness of the flesh," and while I do not know that he particularly referred to this kind of acquisition, his words will fit it very well. It takes strength to study, and teach, and visit, and find out things, and we are all liable to make heavy drafts on our reserve.

3. **Money.**—When you take hold of a Sunday-school class, you will not have so much money for other things. You will spend money simply because you cannot help it. You will need a Bible, and nothing but a good one will satisfy you. Then you will buy books for your class as well as yourself. You will contribute to the support of the school, and also to its benevolent work, and you will soon persuade your scholars to go and do likewise.

II. **EDIFICATION.**—The second grace is the grace of edification. How can we edify, instruct, improve, build up, ourselves and others?

1. **Inward.**—We must get knowledge into