

been a great help and blessing to the other interests of our Sabbath School.

Erskine Church, Toronto

### In the Primary Class

A SERIES OF TWELVE ARTICLES

By Marion Wathen

#### II. WINNING ATTENTION

No matter how carefully any teacher prepares her lesson and how interesting she is making it, sometime during the lesson hour, some one in her class is almost sure to become restless or inattentive. At such a time, it is not wise to break in on her lesson with, "Now, Johnnie, you must listen to what I am saying", or some such remark. While this may make the child attend involuntarily for the moment, his attention will be likely to wander again, for little children are so constituted that they cannot make themselves attend to a particular thing for any great length of time; but *they will be sure to attend to the most attractive thing.*

Suppose a child comes in late and has on a new and attractive hat, dress, or coat; suppose any one of the dozen unexpected things that are almost sure to turn up in any school, takes place and wins the child's attention from the lesson, what is to be done? Well, simply this: The lesson must, in some way, be made, just then, more attractive than this outside affair; or, the attention must be turned to something else, and from this back to the lesson. No time must be lost in introducing something bright or novel. Perhaps there is no better way of winning the attention of an inattentive child at any time, than by showering the class, or the inattentive or listless pupil, with a few direct, pointed, abrupt questions of a startling nature. Suppose your Lesson is, Jesus and the Woman of Samaria, John 4: 19-29 (the Lesson for February 9), your questions might start out like this: "Frank, were you ever thirsty?" "Florence, how do you get the water at your house?" "John, did you ever see a well? Where?"

Children are naturally curious; so, often, when something unforeseen draws their attention from the Lesson, you may win it back by arousing their curiosity. Have a

short guessing competition. For example, say in the Lesson, Jesus Anointed at Bethany, John 12: 1-11 (the Lesson for April 19), "I've got something precious at home: guess what." "The woman in our Lesson had something precious; it wasn't a watch, or a brooch, or a locket: but guess what." "People in the country where Jesus lived, used to do something very strange, when a friend first came into their house; they didn't shake hands with him, or take their hats and hang them up, or offer them a chair: but guess what."

Harcourt, N.B.

### The Lantern in Sunday School Work

By Rev. James Rollins, B.A.

The lantern was introduced into the Sunday School work of the King Street Presbyterian Church, London, over a year ago. Our school meets in the basement of the church, and we are necessarily very much crowded. This handicap made us anxious to have our other equipment as helpful as possible.

In our Normal School and Collegiate Institute, the lantern is used for projecting pictures in various subjects—in geography, mountain ranges, cities, etc.; in history, historical personages, as a means of stamping the personality more vividly upon the mind; in science, diagrams are easily preserved in the form of slides and readily projected where all may see them. Combined with the microscope, microscopic sections are reproduced by the lantern, so that a hundred can see as easily as one.

We therefore thought than an instrument that has long been used as a means of interesting grown up people in travel talks and popular lectures, and which now forms part of the equipment of our Colleges, Normal Schools and High Schools, might be turned to good account in Sunday School work. It should be understood that for day-time work, electric illumination is the only kind that will be very satisfactory. Good results are obtained in our school by drawing an ordinary green shade over the windows.

As to the uses of the lantern and its results:

First. We have dispensed with hymn books, the hymns being now thrown upon the screen in easy view of all. Results: (1)