

and "learn of Him," the great Teacher; that the gifts of heaven are poured into our hearts, and our hearts are enlarged to receive them. Be sure of this, if He gives not, and we find not, the fault is wholly our own; in no wise His.

### Bible Stories

*By Rev. S. H. Gray, M.A.*

The famous Russian novelist, Count Leo Tolstoi, in his younger days set himself the task of educating the children of the peasants in his neighborhood. He opened a few schools within or near to his estate, and even turned part of his own house into a schoolroom. He was himself the supporter, inspector, and often teacher of these schools.

His educational methods were, to say the least, novel. He allowed the children liberty. They might come when they wished, and go away when they had had enough. They might sit where and as they chose, and learn whatever subject they best liked. He had thus an excellent opportunity of discovering what subjects of study best excited and held the attention of children. And here is his own testimony:

"Only the old Testament remained in their memories, and was listened to delightedly, and retold by them when they reached their homes. It stayed with them to this degree, that, after two months, they could, with a few mistakes, write down what they had heard. I believe that the Old Testament, this book of the childhood of the race, will always remain the best book for the childhood of every man."

He goes on to say that the gateway into the inner world of truth and beauty, into the spiritual perception of divine things, whatever it be for men, is, for children, the simple and fascinating stories of the Old Testament. "I repeat it," he says, "without the Bible the education of the child in the present state of society is impossible."

Such testimony is of great value, and should touch the consciences of all Christian people. Since the teaching of the Bible in our day schools cannot yet be hopefully contemplated, it is left to our Sunday School workers and

to Christian parents to make the best use of their opportunity. In every way possible to us, we should endeavor to instill in the young lives we touch a knowledge of, and love for, the Bible stories, characters and teachings. We should seek to teach, less, by laying down abstract principles, and more, to make these truths concrete and living by connecting them with the experiences of the Bible characters. The stories themselves convey the instruction desired. Nothing that we can do will add more to the attractiveness and usefulness of the Sunday School, than using our opportunity to convey spiritual truth through the words and examples which the Bible contains. The best Sunday School is that in which the fullest and most varied knowledge of the Bible is to be obtained.

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### Soul Winning in the Sabbath School

*By Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D.*

#### I. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SCHOOL

The soul is as dependent on the spiritual atmosphere in which it lives as the body is on the air. The head of a great University said recently, that the life of a student is influenced more profoundly by the atmosphere of the University than by the direct effort of either professors or Christian workers.

The same principle holds in the church and Sabbath School. Mightier for good or evil than the lessons, or the appeals of the teachers, is the spiritual atmosphere of the place. It should be of such a quality as will give the scholars the rich, red blood of the heart, nourishing all that is good in their nature, and carrying away the waste and impurities of life.

Every school has an atmosphere peculiarly its own. As you enter it, you feel its spirit in the very air. The tone of the hymns and prayers, of the reading and teaching, is determined by it. Unconsciously everyone within range is influenced by it. If it be truly spiritual, it has a power to nurture and inspire that nothing else can have; but if it be cold and worldly, it will paralyze the most earnest efforts that the individual teacher can make.

How may the atmosphere of a school be-