

Sunday School

An Unique S.S. Anniversary Programme

Believing that there was room for improvement in the kind of programme usually furnished at Sunday School, anniversary entertainments, the Committee of Management of Park Street Sunday School, Chatham, Ont., Mr. Chas. Austin, Superintendent, determined to attempt a radical change. Their aim was to arrange a programme which should at once be instructive to performers and audience, and also a product of the work of the school. The result was that in the three months between the launching of the plan and the anniversary the school committed and recited 15,000 verses, adults and children alike engaging in a gratifying study of the Bible. The following is the outline of the plan arranged by Mr. Wilson Taylor, B.A., and given to the classes for guidance:

It has been decided that our Sunday School Anniversary will be held about Easter, in accord with the following plan:

Valuable prizes will be awarded on anniversary night in connection with the following competitions:

1. Each class will hold a competition on finding verses in the Bible. The winner in each class to be eligible to enter the public competition on anniversary night, when the three first in the competition will receive first, second and third prizes. The manner of conducting the competition will be as follows: Each competitor will receive a folded slip with ten verses to find in the Bible. At a given signal the slips are opened, and the first and last word of each verse written down. The first correct paper handed in marks out the winner.

2. A school competition for memorizing the text: Two candidates, a boy or girl, will be nominated as captains. These captains will by turns choose the classes to support them. Each pupil who recites at one time five consecutive verses from the Gospel of St. John without a mistake and without being prompted, will have a vote, two votes for ten verses, and so on. The teacher will record the votes, Sunday by Sunday, and report them to the Secretary. The verses must be actually recited while the rest of the class are watching, that no mistake is made. Prizes: Six valuable prizes will be given to the six pupils who cast the highest number of votes. The captain who receives the most votes will present the three highest prizes, and the other captain the other three. Two prizes will also be given to the teachers whose classes have made the highest average in votes.

3. Besides these, the programme will consist of:

(a) A number of recitations from the Bible.

(b) Special numbers prepared and given, by single or combined classes. These will be explained in full to the classes interested.

(c) A reading competition by volunteers, of selections from the Bible, in connection with which prizes will be awarded.

Under the head of special numbers two or three are worthy of particular mention, viz.: the reciting of some of the sublime passages of Scripture by individuals; the reciting of the miracles of John's Gospel by nine large girls; and the rendering of "Our Heavenly Home" by twenty boys and girls, assisted by two soloists. This last number, which was repeated at a subsequent Sunday evening

service, at the request of the pastor, Rev. G. H. Cobblewick, and to the great interest and profit of a large congregation, is as follows:

OUR HEAVENLY HOME.

I. Solo—"I Hear Thee Speak of a Better I. nd."

II. (1) Question—We hear that in the Better Land there is a city of wonderful beauty and we wish to know where it is.

(a) Answer—Rev. 21. 1-3.

(b) " —John 14. 2, 3.

(c) " —2. Cor. 4. 17-18; 5. 1.

(2) Question—When was the city founded?

(a) Answer—It was founded before the world was created, for when Jesus prayed he said: John 17. 5 and 24.

(b) Answer—Matt. 25. 34.

(3) Question—How long will the city continue?

(a) Answer—It will continue forever.—Rev. 4. 13.

(4) Question—By whom was the city founded?

(a) Answer—Heb. 11. 10.

(5) Question—How large is the city?

(a) Answer—Rev. 21. 15, 16.

(6) Question—Has the city walls and gates?

(a) Answer—Rev. 21. 12-14.

(b) " —Rev. 21. 21.

(c) " —Rev. 21. 18.

(7) Question—How is the city lighted?

(a) Answer—Rev. 21. 23-25.

(b) " —Rev. 22. 5.

III. Hymn—"No Night shall be in Heaven."

(8) Question—How is the city supplied with water and food?

(a) Answer—Rev. 22. 1, 2.

(9) What is the population of the city? Answer—Rev. 5. 11.

IV. Recitation—Rev. 7. 9-17.

(10) Question—Who may enter the city?

(a) Answer—Rev. 21. 27.

(b) " —Rev. 22. 14.

(c) " —1. John 3. 1, 2.

(11) Question—Who may not enter the city?

(a) Answer—Rev. 20. 11-15.

(b) " —Rev. 21. 8 and 27.

V. Solo—"The Holy City."

Men in Sunday-school

A vigorous lawyer stood on the street corner one Sunday morning. As the children hurried joyously by on their way to Sunday School, he said to a friend: "I do love to see the young people going to Sunday School." His friend made the very natural and just reply: "Well, if you believe in it so much, how is it that you do not go yourself?" The lawyer's answer was: "Oh, well, if other people did not go and keep up the Sunday School, I would go myself." There are scores of men just like this lawyer; they believe in the Sunday School, and are anxious for it to prosper; they think it can get along without their personal support, and allow it to do so.

Our Sunday School work of to-day is greatly in need of men—earnest, devoted men. The schools need the vigor and strength which men can give; they need, for the boys, the example of men; they need faithful, self-sacrificing men who will take hold of the work and stand by it. Most of our schools have a few such men, but what is needed is that enough of the men of the Church shall be found sustaining the Sunday School to make the community feel the weight of their influence.

I know a small village church with such a group of men—lawyers, a manufacturer, merchants, mechanics—eight or

ten of the leading men of the town. They are in Sunday School every time; they sit up in front, they sing, teach classes, pray, give, and take part in any discussion for the interest of the school. Best of all, they are all "of one mind"; they stand together. I need not say that that school prospers. The church has come, from being weak and insignificant, to be the strongest religious factor in the town. I know another church—it is in the country—where a group of men, some of the wealthiest and most active men in business, stand faithfully together in the Sunday School. Going to Sunday School is a matter of course in that community; boys do not drop out at sixteen or eighteen years of age.

Some years ago I had been saying to the men of the church I was serving that if the fathers would attend Sunday School the boys of fifteen to twenty-one would attend also; that if the fathers did not attend the boys would not be there. I finally concluded that I might be speaking rashly out of my mouth, and that it would be wise to consult the Secretary of the school. The record showed about thirty fathers in Sunday School who had sons fifteen years old and over. The record also revealed the fact that these sons were all in school with scarcely an exception; moreover, we had scarcely a boy over fifteen years of age in the large school of about five hundred enrolled, where the father, if living, was not there. Boys whose fathers do not attend Sunday School drop out when they feel that they are men.

Any church which has a half dozen strong, successful men, willing to band themselves together for work and for God, can have a good Sunday School. The same will be true in any other department of Church work.—Rev. M. D. Jeffries, in The Teacher.

A Valuable Book

Probably there is no man in America who knows more about running a Sunday-school than Mr. Marion Lawrence. He is not a mere theorist, but a practical worker, having been a superintendent for twenty-eight years, and an International Field Secretary for some years. He has thus had exceptional opportunities for studying Sunday-school problems, and is well qualified to help others.

His new book on "How to Conduct the Sunday-school," recently published by the Revell Co., as might be expected, is a valuable compend of tried plans and methods which have proved successful in large and small schools. Every possible question relating to the management of the Sunday-school is dealt with in a lucid manner, and many of the latest ideas for arousing and maintaining interest are explained. Every Sunday-school superintendent should get this book. The price is \$1.25, and it can be secured at the Methodist Book Room.

One great object of an education is to develop practical power, to add to one's ability to cope with men and things, to become more efficient, and to be better fitted to grapple with the practical problems of life—Success.

Rev. F. B. Meyer strikes the nail on the head when he says: "Unless we bring up the standard of our Sunday-School teaching very materially, we shall find that those who have derived the benefit of the best appliances in the world during the week will not subject themselves to old-world methods which may have done very well fifty years ago, but are practically obsolete in these more strenuous times."