

## The Sunday School.

COMMITTEE: James Lediard, Geo. Fowler, Miss L. Pitcher.

### Punctuality of Teachers.

(Left over from last issue.)

Punctuality is one of the most essential qualifications to be possessed by you who desire to become successful teachers. Not only does your efficiency as an individual teacher depend upon the diligent cultivation of this virtue, but the welfare of the entire school is in a great measure affected by your neglect of this important quality of character. This may seem to many to be a trivial matter, but small matters are the fatal stumbling blocks of the soul. As a broken buckle once proved the ruin of a brave warrior, by permitting his saddle to slip, so have matters equally trivial often destroyed souls. Growing out of this irregularity on your part are numerous evils which give evidence of your failure in imparting instruction. The first we shall notice is the pupils' lack of confidence in the teacher. Although you possess wisdom, knowledge, learning, tact and ability to present your conception of the subject in the most pleasing manner, if you are not promptly at your post, ready to assist in the preparatory exercises of the school, you fail to uphold the superintendent in his endeavors to make it a model of promptness and system, and omit a very important act, which is not only a duty, but a privilege, namely, that of greeting each and every one of your pupils, and bidding them welcome to their places, thus inspiring them with confidence in you, and cause them to submit to your influence and glorify God for your fidelity. Second: Tardiness of teachers begets tardiness in the pupils. Children are apt judges of consistency, and the lessons of the teacher who says one thing and does the opposite are quickly seen through. Example is a potent instructor, though it teaches without a tongue. Hence if you value your reputation as a successful teacher, if you are seriously and truly in earnest in your efforts to aid in the upbuilding of the Master's cause and kingdom, manifest it by your own example. Otherwise you will be vexed and annoyed by a class habitually tardy, regular only in their own irregularities. Regardless of the value of time, they make no effort to show their appreciation of the dowry which God, their Maker, has bestowed upon them, but continue to be a source of untold annoyance, not only to you and their classmates, but they become general disturbers of the peace and prosperity of the whole school. It matters not

how important and interesting the subject of the lesson may be, nor how earnest you are in your efforts to make it instructive, nor how attentive your hearers, the appearance of stragglers attracts the attention of the whole class, and it is some time before you are able to gain a willing audience. Third: It is impossible for a tardy teacher to take the required interest in the lesson. If you are late, some neglect has caused the delay; perhaps you have failed to have your wardrobe in readiness, overslept yourself, and then hastily performed your toilet, swallowed a few mouthfuls of food in a fever of excitement, and proceed to the performance of a solemn duty with all the dispatch of an individual going to make a train which leaves in a few minutes, only to find you are behind time. You are unable to compose yourself sufficiently to comprehend the subject with clearness and discuss it with interest and profit. Then how ill prepared are you to instruct others in the way of truth and life; how unfitted for the task of pointing out the path of duty and impressing those under your care with the brevity of life, and the importance of a just estimation of the value of time and urging them to the aspiration of the psalmist, "to number their days that they may apply their hearts unto wisdom." Were it possible to realize the worth of time, how carefully would we husband the moments, and strive to have each fleeting period bear some good account of zealous efforts made to mark its flight by mental and moral excellence. Compute its bearings upon the bliss or woe of eternity and remember if lost it can never be recalled. Other errors admit of reformation: lost wealth may be regained by industry; the wreck of health repaired by temperance; alienated friendship soothed into forgiveness. But who ever again looked upon vanished hours, or recalled a single moment of time, or effaced from heaven's record the fearful blot of a wasted life? It is no excuse for you that others are as negligent in this respect as you. Every one must stand alone to give account at last. The example of a brother or a sister will not be accepted as a palliation, nor the habit of excuse, however acceptable it may have been to men, justify you before the Judge who readeth the intents of the heart. Remember that you are held responsible at a higher tribunal than that of earth for the manner in which you discharge your duties as a teacher. Every hour assumes a fearful responsibility when we view it as the culturer of an immortal harvest. Time is the seed-planter of eternity; every winged moment does its work and will have its reward. Your work is not with that part which dieth, but with that which is to live forever. Everything we do for the world shall perish with it, but whatsoever we do for God shall be immortal. Then what account will you render of the time which he has granted to be employed in glorifying and serving him? Shall you say you have had friends on earth to boast of, but have acquired none to yourself in heaven? Shall it be written upon your life, "time lost for eternity?"

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