

The Teacher's Monthly.

Vol. IV

SEPTEMBER, 1898.

No. 9.

The Helps for three Lessons of this Quarter were prepared, in order of their date, by Rev. J. McDougall, Holton, P. Q.; Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Montreal, and Rev. A. S. Morton, Fairville, St. John, N.B.

Some Sabbath Schools in the country are open only in summer, owing to the long distances, the bad roads, the cold and storm, the short days, the work of heating a building for the school, and other winter hindrances in the country. On the other hand, some schools in the city close in the summer because many of their scholars are in the country, while in winter their attendance is largest. Where such intermissions must be, it would be of great advantage and help for the scholars to have our S. S. Quarterlies and study the Lessons and answer the questions at home. As the Lessons are usually a connected series, this would be helpful, not only in knowledge acquired from the Lesson itself, but in understanding the other Lessons for the Quarter, and in cultivating the habit of Bible study at home.

The month of September is an important one for all S. S. teachers and their work. Schools that close in winter will be nearing the end of their term. But few Sabbaths remain. What is to be done for the true well-being of the scholar must be done at once, if at all. Other schools are re-opening. It is of the highest importance to begin the S. S. year aright.

Did the S.S. teacher walk only by sight he would soon get discouraged. Sabbaths and seasons come and go; scholars pass in and out of the class, and often the teacher can see no definite results, and he feels, "Surely, I have labored in vain and spent my strength for nought and in vain." But when he turns to the promise, "My word shall not return unto

me void," he takes courage. Seeing not, he believes, that in some measure, by God's blessing, he has helped to shape lives for good.

To the teacher who most fully realizes and takes to heart the smallness of apparent success, the very discouragement may prove a blessing, for the one who knows self weak relies most upon the Holy Spirit, who never disappoints.

OUR S. S. HELPS.

Westward, the S. S. Publications take their way. The Helps for 1899 are to be issued in Toronto.

Over a year ago, June, 1897, when the Assembly met in Winnipeg, the Sabbath School Committee reported that "*it has become quite impossible to conduct it*" (the business and work of the S. S. Publications) "*as in the past,*" and also that liabilities of "over \$5,000 must be met at once."

The Assembly was in a strait. Two problems faced it,—how to meet notes of about \$5,600, and how to continue the Helps. The former was solved by Rev. Drs. Robertson, Thompson, and Fletcher becoming personally responsible in the meantime, on the understanding that the proceeds of Children's Day were to be devoted to its payment.

As to the second problem, on the one hand it was stated by the Committee to be impossible to continue as in the past; and on the other, to appoint one specially to this work, and add the charge of his support to a deficit that had been steadily increasing, seemed in the meantime an unwise risk.

In this dilemma the Editor of the Record was asked if he would undertake them in addition to his own work. He agreed that, if there were no other way open, he would undertake them for a time, and in the beginning of 1898 they were transferred to Montreal.