

and will be careful to give some sign of recognition whenever and wherever he may meet them, thus adding still another link in the chain of real friendship that binds them together and which no power on earth can break.

His associates on the Board of Management will be imbued with a spirit of loyalty and patriotism to Church, School, Pastor and Superintendent, and no harsh criticisms will ever be heard outside the walls of the Board room, even though the course pursued may not be in harmony with the views of individual officers or teachers, as it is of vital importance that the scholars' respect for the superintendent be maintained.

Every member in the school that grows" will be, at all times, amenable to the authority of the Board of management; will gladly sink personal interests for the benefit of the whole, and will, where no principle is involved, give unqualified support to the superintendent in every advance movement.

Each teacher will acknowledge the tremendous responsibility involved in the acceptance of a position on the teaching staff, by faithful attendance at the teachers' meetings, by coming into personal contact with members of the class during the week, by careful preparation of the lesson for class work on Sunday, and by using every possible means to enlist each scholar as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Finally, "the Sunday School that grows" is fully organized, having its Cradle, Primary, Junior, Senior, Adult and Home Departments, each under the supervision of an efficient and energetic officer, thereby providing for the spiritual, mental and physical development of all its constituents from the cradle to the grave.

Space forbids me going into details in connection with these departments, but I cannot close this article without urging the paramount importance of the Organized Adult Bible Class which, in the opinion of the writer, is fast becoming the greatest factor in the growth of the modern Sunday School.

Of course the plant of the school-room will play an important part in the growth of the school, and the Board that is fortunate enough to have an up-to-date plant with its separate class-rooms, orchestra, choir, etc., certainly has a tremendous advantage. However it is encouraging to note the increased interest manifested by our building committees in the Sunday School when planning for remodelling or building. During recent years. May the good work still increase until every school has the best equipment possible.

The lady missionary was taking tea with a mandarin's eight wives. The Chinese ladies examined her clothing, her hair, teeth, and so on, but her feet especially amazed them.

"Why," one cried, "you can walk and run as well as a man!"

"Yes, to be sure," said the missionary. "Can you ride a horse and swim, too?"

"Yes."

"Then you must be as strong as a man?"

"I am."

"And you wouldn't let a man beat you—not even if he was your husband—would you?"

"Indeed, I wouldn't," said the missionary.

The mandarin's eight wives looked at one another, nodding their heads. Then the oldest said softly:

"Now I understand why the white man never has more than one wife. He is afraid."

## The Problem of Evergreen Sunday Schools

Can we rightly expect the majority of our Sunday Schools to keep open all the year round?

BY REV. A. D. McLEOD, OAK HILL, N.B.

It has been my lot and wish the last twenty years to be in charge of a country circuit. Often such circuits are extensive and the people or families sparsely settled. Consequently, it is often very difficult for some to get to the preaching service and more difficult to get to Sunday School, particularly in the fall, winter and spring. Muddy roads, deep snow and inclement weather make it very trying to the young people attending Sunday School.

And yet, if the week-day school can be kept up five days out of every week, summer and winter (excepting holidays), it has occurred to me that even in country districts the Sunday School might be kept up all the year without much diffi-



A CHINESE PARSONAGE BABY.

culty. I think there is a way in which every Sunday School can be kept open throughout the whole year. I have no theories, without experience, to offer, but as I have had somewhat extensive and excellent experience in *preventing* schools from being closed during the winter months, I will tell you how I have helped to bring this about.

In the first place, I interest myself greatly in the Sunday Schools of the circuit. I visit them. I give them what encouragement I can. I talk Sunday School. In my regular services I pray for the schools. The more interested I become in the schools the more interested the Sunday School workers become.

Then I fail not to show the superintendent and teachers their glorious and divine calling and work—training minds, building character, developing lives, saving souls, preparing young girls to become, in the approaching years, the

saintly women, the inspiring and helpful wives and godly mothers who purify society and exalt the nation; and preparing boys to be leaders in church and state.

I give the officers to understand that I do not dream of them closing the school. I generally find that the officers soon get to be somewhat like their pastor. If he is indifferent they are inclined to be the same, if he is deeply interested and enthusiastic, they soon become more or less the same.

Let me give you a matter of personal experience on my last circuit. At one appointment where there was a very small school, they always opened about the middle of May and closed the last of October. My first year they closed as usual, only because it was the last of October. The very next Sunday I tried to reopen, but the superintendent wanted me to understand that the last of October had come and that they never had school from then until the middle of May. For nearly two months I tried each Sunday to reopen, but got no encouragement until one day I got eleven people who promised me to attend should I reopen. I did so, and in less than six weeks I had almost every man, woman and child in the district attending. I organized two Adult Bible Classes. The school soon repaired and beautified the church, contributions for missions were increased from nothing to about \$40, church attendance increased about 40 per cent., contributions for minister's support nearly doubled. Best of all, God saved many souls in the school.

In another school in the same circuit the superintendent closed its meetings. The following Sunday I reopened, and soon I organized in that school an Adult Bible Class which has now forty members. A few months after I reorganized that school God gave us a glorious revival. I received about twenty-five converts from that school into the church.

Once you get a Sunday School up to red-hot interest, you might as well think of keeping it alive from coming in as to think of closing it for the winter months. You ask me how to get the disinterested ones into the school and stay in? Well, let the pastor and superintendent, or some greatly interested conference officer of the school go out *after the individuals*. Make a personal canvass of everybody in the district. You will get a good many, if not everybody. After you get them to keep them make the school interesting. Be prompt; have a good programme; come prepared; be in his or her place; let every officer be in after having been much in prayer; always aim at two things, first, to impart such instruction as will be calculated to make the life happier, purer, and holier, and secondly, seek to bring souls to Christ. After you have brought them to Christ, help them to let their light shine and to become definite workers for the Master. Allow nothing on earth but sickness or death or such like, to prevent the superintendents or teachers from attending *regularly and promptly* the Sunday School, prayer meeting and preaching service. Let this be fully backed up by a completely consecrated Christian life, and your school will be greatly blessed, it could not be otherwise but *evergreen*, and God will surely visit it with a glorious revival.

(After visiting the circuit to which Bro. McLeod refers in his article, and having seen the splendid results of his ministry in the Sunday School there, we asked him for this paper, and trust his zeal will be contagious, and his example followed by many.—Ed.)

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