

The study of prophecy in regard to ancient cities in the light of recent discoveries is one of the most delightful and profitable studies that can engage the thoughtful mind.

[The remaining five evidences will form the subject of next month's lesson.]

## PART II. SCHOOL SECTION: THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

We speak not of what the superintendent actually is, for we get the best man we can, and scarcely hope to find all excellence in any. Yet it is well for us to consider a model superintendent. The actual officer can then measure up to the ideal as far as possible.

**I. Character.** In looking for a manager for a great machine-shop, we enquire for one of character, sober, honest, industrious, loyal, and duly qualified for the work required to be done. Our superintendent must be: 1. A man of character, having a good report from those who know him as honest and honourable in his dealings. 2. A Christian, having a reverence for God's book, and willing to carry into active life his Christianity, even to the extent of suffering, rather than to deny his Lord and Master. 3. A humble spirit. In no office is a man of a proud, self-sufficient spirit more out of place. Let us study the spirit and life of the lowly Saviour as our model here.

**II. Qualifications.** 1. A Church member. The Church is established to bring souls to Christ, and build them up in Christ; therefore it is surely desirable that those who would lead others to Christ should be in the Church. Then, in the Methodist Church the superintendent of the S. S. is a member of the Quarterly Official Board, which he could not be were he not a member of the Church. 2. It is of great service to a superintendent, if he be a good judge of human nature, as the appointment of teachers is largely in his hands, and it is vastly important that he know well where to place each teacher. 3. He should study the art of teaching as far as possible, for he is really a teacher of teachers. 4. He ought to have as good a knowledge of the Bible as he can possibly secure; for the Bible is an intricate book; its subjects are vastly important, and he should know the book well. 5. He should be fertile in expedients for managing the school and young people. Sabbath-schools do best with judicious changes. 6. A man of tact, quick to perceive the best thing and how and when to do it. 7. Needs to have good executive ability. He will not try to do all the work of the school himself, but will employ others wisely, and thus when he drops out some of his helpers will be able to fill his place.

### III. Duties of the Superintendent:

1. To the Church.
2. To his pastor.
3. To the teachers.
4. To the pupils.

1. *To the Church:* (1) He should regularly attend the weekly meetings of the church, both

public preaching and other means of grace, as far as possible, in order to secure the attendance of his teachers and scholars; (2) A liberal man, contributing generously as he may be able to all the various schemes of the Church; and thus he will develop a generous and benevolent spirit in the whole school; (3) Loyal to the Church—if a Methodist, he should be able to show the reason why—and take a deep interest in building up the Church.

2. *Duties to his pastor:* (1) He should co-operate with him in church work, and be subordinate to him as chief officer in the church; (2) He owes him allegiance. The minister is often before the people, and has much to say. He may provoke criticism, sometimes unjustly raised. It is a grand thing for the church when the superintendent sustains the minister and the minister sustains the superintendent of the school.

3. *He should prove his interest in the teachers:*

- (1) By supervising their work judiciously, giving them kindly hints in teaching and management of their classes; (2) Should cultivate an intimate acquaintance with all the teachers; (3) Should conduct the weekly teachers' meeting, or secure some suitable person (the pastor if possible) to conduct it; in that case he should give the best possible help to such person.

4. *To the scholars:* (1) Should study to know every one by name, and call them by their names if possible wherever he meets them; (2) Secure personal visitation of the scholars once a month, or as he may judge best. This can be done to advantage only by a regular plan of co-operation with the teachers and other school officers; (3) He should review the lesson of the day before the school, and on Review Sabbaths should, sometimes at least, teach the whole school; (4) On him must devolve the duty of arranging the classes, after consultation with the teachers concerned; (5) Should personally urge the scholars to come to Christ, and that frequently; (6) Should fully explain to the scholars the nature of the home preparation desired for the school; (7) And always give them the benefit of a consistent example.

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EDENGROVE, Jan. 20th, 1885.

## Mother's Turn.

"It is mother's turn to be taken care of now."

The speaker was a winsome young girl, whose bright eyes, fresh color, and eager looks, told of light-hearted happiness. Just out of school, she had the air of culture, which is an added attraction to a blithe young face. It was mother's turn now. Did she know how my heart went out to her for her unselfish words?

Too many mothers, in their love for their daughters, entirely overlook the idea that they themselves need recreation. They do without all the easy, pretty, and charming things, and say nothing about it; and the daughters do not think there is any self-denial involved. Jenny gets the new dress, and mother wears