

The Teachers Monthly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D., Associate Editor

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To be a half hour ahead of time every Sabbath is a good rule, not only for pastors, when this is possible, as Rev. Wylie C. Clark's article on another page indicates, but for superintendents as well. There is no touch like the personal touch. There is no one the child remembers as lovingly and as long as the person who "notices" him. This half-hour before school is a wide avenue into the scholars' hearts.

The meeting of the General Assembly in this sunny month of June naturally recalls the year's work. It has been, to the S. S. Publications, a delightful year. Our circulations have kept growing. The kind things written to the editors during the year make quite a sheaf in the office files. The gist of them is that our Lesson Helps and Illustrated Papers are in living touch with their constituency. We seek no higher commendation.

The Question on Missions, which appears each week in our Teachers' and Scholars' Helps as part of the lesson of the day, is in the line of good pedagogies. To learn, but to stop short of learning to do, is only to half learn; indeed, hardly to learn at all. The Scriptures are given us, as they themselves tell, that we may be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Bible knowledge comes to its ripeness only when we set ourselves diligently to doing God's work in the world. Not a few schools have already found the missionary fire burning much more brightly by reason of the weekly fagots which the Question on Missions provides.

The appointment of a General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, by the Assembly a year

ago, has fully justified itself. Mr. Robertson has been a busy man, and several distinct results have already appeared from his work. Teacher training, for instance, has been better kept to the front, and therefore shows a decided advance both in the numbers who have taken it up, and in the standard achieved. The Supplemental Lessons, especially the Question on Missions, are coming into more general use. Mr. Robertson's addresses before Presbyteries, and his consultations with Presbytery S. S. Committees have proved of excellent service. If Presbyteries can be got to take S. S. work as seriously as they take home missions, the battle for better schools and more of them will be half won.

One Needful Thing

By Rev. Professor J. E. McFadyen, M. A.

Martha and Mary are sisters, and their virtues are sister virtues—Martha, the symbol of strenuous energy, Mary, the pattern of sweet contemplation. In the kingdom of God there is a place for both. After all, it is not so much the "many things" that are at fault, for all things are God's; it is the being "anxious and troubled" about them.

Martha is anxious. Mary is calm: she can rest. The practical person may have little use for Mary. She may seem to him to be a simpleton or sluggish. Yet the contemplative Mary was more practical than her practical sister, after all. She had the wisdom to gather, in this quiet hour, strength for the lonely days to come, when the Master would sup with them no more.

One thing is needful. What is that? It is very characteristic of Jesus that He does not say. He does not tell us, but He shows us.