

THE REVIEW

The last Sabbath of another year, the next to last day of the Old Century! Can one imagine a more fitting occasion for a gathering together of the old with the young for a service of praise and thanksgiving? If the peculiar character of the day is pressed upon the attention of the congregation for a Sabbath or two, previous and thorough preparation must, for the service, this Review should live in the memory for many a year to come.

The older people have their special reasons for thanksgiving, for many years of this remarkable century have been allowed them; and even the youngest has at least this cause for rejoicing, that the century just ending has given him his birth; and old and young, whilst rejoicing together right heartily, should not be allowed to forget that so many blessings as have been theirs involve weighty responsibilities in the years upon which they are entering.

The LESSON HYMNS may be taken as the basis of the review. This will bring it within the scope of the smallest school, for all the schools can sing.

Begin with Hymn 477 of the Book of Praise:—

“ For Thy mercy and Thy grace,	Hear our song of thankfulness,
Constant through another year,	Father and Redeemer, hear.”

and follow the singing with a prayer of thanksgiving and confession.

Then have the Harvest Hymn, No. 488, Book of Praise; and a good harvest year it has been, taking one part of our land with another. There should be a hearty chorus:—

“ All good gifts around us	Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
Are sent from heaven above;	For all His love.”

A Psalm of praise and thanksgiving may then be read in concert, such as Ps. 100, or Ps. 146. Follow this by singing Psalm Selection 76: 1-5 (Ps. 103) from the Book of Praise.

A brief drill on the twelve lessons of the Quarter fits in here, with this thought foremost, God's greatest gift to men is His own Son. (John 3: 16; 2 Cor. 9: 15.) His goodness to us in His Son, our Redeemer and Friend, comes out in Lesson I; in His exalting humble people; II. In His inviting all classes of people; III. In His rejoicing over the lost when found; IV. In His welcome for the penitent; V. In His praise of the prudent; VI. In His just dealings with all; VII. In His cleansing of the sinful; VIII. In His wise counsels; IX. In His warnings; X. In His giving sight to the blind; XI. In His saving of men's souls; XII. In His rewarding of the faithful.

An outline drill will be better than much detail. The object is to deepen the sense of gratitude, especially for what God's blessed Son is to us and has done for us. All hearts should be attuned for the hymn, No. 549.

“ We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of thy love,
For Jesus who died and is now gone above.”

There can be nothing more appropriate here than a brief and pointed address—and it will be as tender as pointed—from the minister, seeking to bring all present, scholars and teachers and friends, into close touch with Jesus, the Saviour and Friend. His love, His gifts, His power, His guidance—and what our return for these should be—will all find solemn and joyous utterance in Hymn 80. What joy if all can sing sincerely, the closing words:—

“ From Him, who loves me now so well,	Shall life or death, or earth or hell?
What power my soul can sever?	No! I am His forever.”

A prayer of consecration and for guidance and help will form a fitting conclusion; and then, with the backward look of thanksgiving and the forward look of hope, such a lofty song as Hymn 474, “ O God, o - help in ages past,” or Hymn 301, the good old Paraphrase, “ O God of Bethel!” may be sung, as the last session for the Century ends.