

be one whose heart and soul are in Sunday School work. He should do the part which falls to him as his share of the glorious work of training up children in the right way, and he should do it for the honor and glory of God.
Montreal

Church Hymns and Tunes in the Sabbath School

By Dr. John Stenhouse

Mediocrity can never lift a man higher than itself; and mediocre hymns and mediocre tunes are no exception to the rule. It is, therefore, the bounden duty of the superintendent, while seeking the best teaching for his pupils, to keep the same lofty ideals before him in regard to the praise of the Sabbath School. We have many hymns to choose from, but they are of very unequal value for Sabbath School purposes. Very few Schools sing more than four hymns in the ordinary routine of the day; these must serve the child for a whole week, and if we would keep their rhythm and their message circulating through the youthful brain for the uplift of the youthful soul, they must be choice in every respect.

"Two men looked out from prison bars;

One saw mud, the other stars."

It is ours to turn the earthward gaze of the stupid and grovelling to the heavenly vision, and I am sure it can be done as lastingly by song as by any other means.

One or two elementary principles must be kept in view. Owing to the intensity and rapidity of the child's mental operations (they are at the stage when they "mount up with wings as eagles"), the time of any given tune should, as a rule, be faster than when sung in the adult congregation.

The concrete obviously appeals to the child. He is daily gathering impressions from the outer world through eye and ear. He has seen regiments on the march, and battle pictures that rouse the imagination, and so, "Onward, Christian soldiers", "Fight the good fight", "Who is on the Lord's side?" etc., will always be sung well.

On the other hand, the child is a mystic; the unseen glories are real to him, and hymns of the future life are equally dear. However boisterous he may be, "Jerusalem the gold-

en" is sung with thoughtfulness and expression: such hymns are a permanent investment of priceless value.

Finally, let us not neglect the Psalms. They are as well sung as any hymn that ever was written. The stately measures of, "The man who once has found abode"; the plaintive sweetness of, "I love the Lord, because my voice"; and the triumph of, "Now Israel may say", all find a ready response in the heart of the child, and will be an enduring memento of Sabbath School days, when many of their other lessons are forgotten.

Toronto

The Supplemental Hymn for the Quarter

By D. G. Bell, Esq.

Amongst the essentials to successful Sabbath School work, music occupies a high position,—higher, indeed, than is accorded it in many places. Martin Luther said of it, "Next to theology, I give to music the highest place and honor." Enthusiastic, intelligent singing is an inspiration to any school. Nothing appeals with greater force to our young people, nor makes more lasting impressions on their memories.

Important as it is to have hearty singing, it is still more important that our scholars sing with the understanding. Hymns are used to instruct, to inspire, and as a part of worship, and if superintendents and leaders would only keep this in mind when teaching them, the result would be a great uplift to the character of our service.

All thoughtful persons know that if the words are memorized and assimilated, the spirit and sentiments expressed are more fully appreciated by the singer. Thus it is, when the Supplemental Hymn is thoroughly committed to memory by the entire School, it becomes of very real value to its devotional spirit.

Another important purpose served by the use of the Supplemental Hymn, is the introduction of gems in hymnology that would too frequently remain unknown to many. Take for example, the hymn, "Spirit, strength of all the weak", the Supplemental Hymn for the Second Quarter, 1908. How many Schools used this before it appeared in our