

1918

tardy and listless in the case of the quite young children, which is a monstrous pity, because the younger the child the easier it is to bring him close to God.

The certain reward of effort in this ingathering process should surely stir up even the most tardy. The boys and girls are quick to respond to any sincere direct challenge from parent or teacher or minister definitely to take Christ as their own, and to come out before their companions on Christ's side. They often wonder why no one asks them. They are just waiting to be taken by a kindly, tactful hand, and led into the confessing of Christ as their Saviour and friend and master. An earnestly conducted effort to this end on the part of the minister and the Sunday School teachers and the home, will, in most cases, yield a surprisingly large result. The autumn ingathering from field and garden should, and may be, paralleled in the Sunday School.

A Great Winter! Why Not?

We have had such a demonstration, these four years past, of what ordinary people may accomplish in war work of various kinds, by getting together and pushing, as should prepare us to undertake with confidence, any biggest sort of task that may be put up to us.

The very biggest present task is the religious training of the children and the growing boys and girls. Unless this is effectually done, the best fruits of the hard won War will turn to ashes in our mouths. For, of what use is liberty to those unfitted to use it? And history has shown a hundred times over, that the root and fountain of fitness to use liberty aright, is the fear and love of God; these are the chief ends and objectives of religious education.

We do not underestimate or undervalue what the great army of Sunday School workers of our Presbyterian Church in Canada are accomplishing in this regard. Their zeal is beyond praise. But the most zealous and effective of them will be the first to acknowledge that only a fraction of what ought to be done, and might be done, is being done. "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed" in the matters of filling up the Sunday Schools and Bible Classes, methods of instruction and training in, and for, Christian service, and the developing of the missionary spirit.

The coming winter is a coming opportunity in these various lines; an opportunity that is knocking at the door of every Sunday School, small and large alike.

What is to be done about it, is a question for each School to settle for itself. The task is clearly defined, the right religious education of the children and youth. The equipment is at everyone's hand. In most instances, the organization is in a wholesome, living condition. What is needed is the gathering into the task of everyone who can help, the getting closer together in planning and in prayer, and a stronger grip on these two stupendous facts: that the Father of us all has laid it on us who are grown, to train the younger ones for him; and that the Strong Son of God, who twenty centuries ago sent out his followers with the great commission to *teach*, is back of us in our effort, as he was back of them in theirs.

A great winter! Shall it not be so?

The New Teacher

There was a long road between his first Sunday as a teacher in a little Sunday School in a little town—a mere half-grown lad, and the masterly man, who, because of the skill he attained as teacher and in discipline, directs the prosperous course of a large Sunday School in a great city. But this man traversed the road, as every beginner may.

And how was it done?

First, by a wholesome lack of conceit in himself. He was very humble and very eager to learn.

Then, he believed his task was worth while. There was the class. They needed the instruction. It was the God-appointed way by which their young lives were to be brought into living contact with God and with his truth. And there was the lad, only a beginner, but