

# Primary Teachers' Department.

## Primary Notes.

WITH the coming of September the summer rest is practically over and teacher and pupils gather again in the pleasant "Sabbath Home." Happy is the teacher who rejoices over the return of each little stray lamb, and who is well assured that the absent members of her flock eagerly anticipate the return to the dear fold!

"How shall I make my children prefer the class to a walk on Sunday afternoon?" The question is an important one. Where the parents do not feel the value of the Sunday school, it is not easy for the teacher to make the children understand it. Yet, it can be done, relying upon the help so freely given by the great Lover of the little ones.

To make the children appreciate the need and importance of religious training, the teacher must first be fully convinced of it herself. No sense of duty, or even of delight in the companionship of the little people will suffice. There must be a real heart conviction that Jesus loves the children, and wants them for his own, and that the early morning of the day of life is the best time for sowing the seed of eternal life in young hearts.

THERE must be sympathy between the teacher and the children. The teacher must respect their little efforts to understand and to help, and warmly welcome them. She must enter into their little joys and sorrows, and show them that they may safely confide in her. She must make them feel that she needs their help in making the class room a delightful and happy place. When she has established such relations with her flock, and has made it very clear that she misses the absent ones, and is sorry to miss them, it will take strong drawings to keep them from the class.

A LITTLE book worth its weight in gold in its revelations of the true sympathy which should exist between the child and a parent (or a teacher), is entitled *Beckonings from Little Hands*, by Patterson DuBois. This is a good book for a primary teacher to lend to parents who especially need its teachings. We suggest this for the reason that the primary teacher has as real a ministry oftentimes to the parent as

to the child, and a little careful seed-sowing in the home, quite apart from the children, will often produce results as surprising as delightful.

THE primary teacher may often be a minister to the truth in unchristian homes by the wise distribution of telling leaflets. Few parents will refuse to read a leaflet sent by the teacher through their little child. A missionary in a distant mining region tells us about finding a poor woman who said she "hadn't heard a prayer for a year," that her children went to Sunday school, and when reading the Sunday school papers had gone to their father to ask how to pronounce the hard words, and he had become so interested that he would take down the Bible and read the whole chapter containing the lesson. This was wonderful to the poor woman, but it only furnishes one more proof to the Christian that God honors his word, and that little ones are often his messengers in carrying it to unbelievers.

## Rally Day in the Primary Department.

BY ALICE MAY DOUGLAS.

PERHAPS the teacher of the Primary Department will find more to do upon Rally Day than will any other officer of the Sunday school, for the simple reason that her scholars being so small, may be careless about returning to the school after their summer vacations.

When the children return from their summer vacation it is pleasant for their Sunday school teacher to send them a welcome-home letter. An invitation to be present on Rally Day could be sent at the same time.

A teacher told me that she secured a large attendance to her class upon Rally Day by going to the different members who were present on the preceding Sunday and requesting them to invite others who did not happen to be present. To those who she was not able to reach in this way, she sent a postal card. (She likewise instructed the children to bring their parents with them upon that day.) Children like children, hence in all departments of the school work it is always preferable to send children after children.

Upon this day the older children should be induced to enter upon a systematic home reading of the Bible and discouraged of keeping up the