

# The Teachers Monthly

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GREAT GOD, we sing that mighty hand  
By which supported still we stand ;  
The opening year Thy mercy shows,  
That mercy crowns it till its close.

With grateful hearts the past we own ;  
The future all to us unknown,  
We to thy guardian care commit,  
And peaceful leave before Thy feet.

More scholars in the Sabbath School ;  
More Bible study in the home ;  
Better preparation for teaching ;  
More eagerness to save souls ;  
More diligence in serving God.

These are our watchwords for the new year and the new century. They can be counted on the fingers of one hand, but they will demand a strenuousness and patient continuance which can come only from true love and loyalty to our Heavenly Master—the great Teacher and Saviour of mankind.

The Rev. Principal MacVicar, Montreal ; Rev. George B. McLeod, Westville, Nova Scotia ; Rev. Robert Haddow, Toronto ; Rev. Professor Ross, Montreal ; Mrs. Jessie Monro Johnston, North Bay, Ont.—these are the names, as will be seen by reference to the different portions of Lesson I., of those who have assisted in the preparation of the lessons for the first quarter of the present year. The aim of one and all is to carry the teachers, and through them the scholars, older and younger, direct to the Word of God itself. The fixed purpose of THE TEACHERS MONTHLY is to foster independent study of the Scripture, and to lead teachers to teach—not things about the Bible, but the Bible itself, as the revelation of God's will to men and the story of the re-

demption of mankind through "God's dear Son."

To avoid taking up too much space with the lesson passages, the International Committee has so arranged that only a select portion of the longer lessons shall be printed. The comment and application and teaching hints, however, in every case cover the whole passage. It will now be necessary—there should never be any other practice—for every scholar to have his Bible in hand in the class.

## A Fresh Beginning

"In the beginning, God." So commences the story of the earth and of man, God the Creator taking delight in preparing the earth for man's abode, and in making man in His own image, to dwell on the earth and to enjoy its delights and the delights of fellowship with His Maker.

It was through no fault of the gracious Creator that man did not hold the Paradise in which he was placed, that he allowed the possession of the best that earth could give—and earth then was but a lesser heaven—to fall away from his grasp. How sorely the heart of the Father in heaven was grieved and with what persistent love He sought to bring His erring children back to Himself and to happiness, the story of the age-long dealings of God with men reveals.

There was a new beginning ; and again it was, "In the beginning, God" ; God once more present amongst men, and closer even than when He walked and talked with Adam in the Garden. At the first beginning it was man made in the image of God. Now, it is God become man, that so He might