

The Teachers Monthly

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THE Committee on Sabbath School Publications are in a position to present a most encouraging report to the General Assembly. There has been a large increase in circulation. The success of the LESSON HELPS is assured, and the wisdom of the Church in thus seeking to feed her own children from her own table has been fully justified.

We have pleasure in announcing that in the next issues, all our publications will appear in an entirely new dress of type which has been purchased specially for the HOME STUDY SERIES and will be used exclusively by it. We shall aim steadily at the highest standard both as to form and matter.

By the time the present issue of the TEACHERS MONTHLY reaches its readers the Editor and Business Manager expects to be in occupation of the new Offices of the Committee in the Confederation Life Building, immediately adjoining the other Church Offices. This change has been rendered necessary by the growth of the business. All correspondence should, therefore, be addressed CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO, and schools are reminded that, in addition to our own Lesson Helps, we are prepared to fill their orders for all other necessary Sabbath School supplies.



STORIES FOR THE CHILDREN

The child's appetite for "a story" is insatiable, and it is a perfectly natural and healthy appetite. Is not every child part and parcel of the great human family, and does he not, with the earliest awakening of intelligence, instinctively reach out after his kin? He feels, child though he be, and little as he can understand how or why, that the laughter and the tears, the gladness and the sadness of all the world belong to him. Already, as the stories are told him, he is soldier, sailor, saint, or martyr. The story is to

the child the rehearsal of what he himself is to be and to do some day.

The sort of stories with which the child-mind is pre-occupied is an important factor in deciding after what sort his life shall be; for the stories of the mother's knee form an atmosphere which abides. He may be made superstitious, or foolishly romantic, or brave and chivalrous. The good and the true may become glorious to him, or he may learn to care only for the frivolous and the base.

It is surely not without design that the Holy Scriptures take so largely the form of story. It makes the Bible a children's book, and they take in readily the deep things of God when so set forth. God's power—they learn it in the story of the making of the world and of man. The ark floating on the wild waste of waters, the manna falling night by night in the desert, show God's grace. Faith becomes real to their eyes in Abram leaving his own land for a strange country just because God bids him; courage, in such as Daniel; sweet willingness to serve, in Samuel. To talk to a child of "the atonement" is to waste words. It is a mere abstraction, of which he can take no hold. Tell him the story of the Cross, as Matthew and Mark and Luke and John tell it, and he is ready for John the Baptist's testimony: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

And it is as much because the stories of the Bible touch these deepest things, as because the stories are so exquisite in themselves, that they so entrance even the very little ones. Try it! You will find the children eager, always eager, when play is over and the evening hour has come, or when the quiet calm of the Sabbath rests upon their spirits, for a Bible story.

Many have essayed to simplify the Bible stories for little children by telling them in simple words. The "Peep of Day" series showed what could be done—put in print, in fact, what many a mother had been "making up" for herself from the Scriptures. In the several books of the series "Line upon Line," "Precept upon Precept,"