

The second group of lessons brings us to the period extending from

THE CROSSING OF THE JORDAN TO THE DEATH  
OF JOSHUA

In this group we follow the Israelites from Canaan under the leadership of the sturdy soldier who succeeded the revered legislator. Crockery's Joshua and the Conquest (15c.) gives a brief and interesting outline of the history of this period. A great deal of valuable information is packed into the little volume by Maclear in the Cambridge Bible (60c.). A fuller treatment of these times of settlement is given by Blaikie in the Expositor's Bible (\$1.00). Deane, also in Men of the Bible (60c.), gives a full and readable account of the life and times of Joshua.

In the third group we find ourselves in

THE TIMES OF THE JUDGES

For the study of this period, the most valuable helps are the Expositor's Bible by Watson (\$1.00), the Cambridge Bible by Lias (60c.), and Gideon and the Judges by Marshall Lang (60c.). The volume by Lias contains a clear and comprehensive outline of the contents of Judges. Lang's book gives a vivid picture of the heroes who appeared in Israel after the settlement of Canaan. For those who wish a smaller book, Patterson's The Judges (15c.) will be useful.

The fourth group contains the lessons taken from

THE TIMES OF SAMUEL

No better or more readable book for Sabbath School teachers on Samuel can be named, than Blaikie's two volumes in the Expositor's Bible (\$1.00 each). Deane, in Men of the Bible (60c.) treats the history of this period in a clear and interesting fashion.

There are other books in which the teacher will find material for illustration and application throughout the whole course of lessons for the half-year. Dr. Alexander Whyte's Bible Characters, Adam to Achan (\$1.00) shows marvellous insight into the principles and motives lying behind the outer life of the great figures of earlier Old Testament history. McPhail's Historical Geography of Palestine (15c.) helps the student in tracing the history of Israel, by giving him a better know-

ledge of the theatre on which its drama was enacted. Scott's The Making of Israel (15c.) describes the training and discipline of the chosen race from the days of Joseph to those of Joshua. The Holy Land in Geography and History (2 vols. \$2.00 per vol.) by Townsend Macoun will amply repay careful study.

The books quoted at 15c. are the well-known Bible Class Primers and are of far greater value than the price indicates.

It may be emphasized in closing that no use of helps, however excellent, should be allowed to divert the teacher from the earnest and prayerful study of the Bible itself.

## THE GRADING OF SCHOOLS

Much is claimed for a careful grading of the classes in the Sabbath School, and the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee have had the question of a suitable scheme under consideration for some time. They were anxious to avoid high-wrought and complicated plans and to secure even for small schools with a simple organization the benefits of the grading system. At the recent semi-annual meeting of the Committee, the following Report, prepared by Colonel D. Torrance Fraser, of Montreal, was unanimously adopted, and is now published as a guide to schools which are considering this most important matter. It will be found full of suggestion.

### A GRADED SCHOOL

A graded school consists of departments with as many classes in each as may be found necessary. An average school may be divided into the following departments, viz.:-

I. PRIMARY DEPARTMENT—Non-readers up to about 8 years. They ought to be able to repeat the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and Psalms 23, 100 and 121; then they may be promoted to the—

II. INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT—For two years, or to about 10 years old. Then they should know, in addition, the names and order of the Books of the Bible, the Ten Commandments, and half of the Golden Texts of the previous quarter. After that promote to the—

III. JUNIOR DEPARTMENT—For four years,