

The want of a thorough acquaintance with Scripture is seriously apparent among our people. We need to be more thoroughly indoctrinated in that Word on which the Spirit can act. To effect this purpose we need more and better teaching. As Presbyterians we believe in the great fact of God's covenant with believers and their seed; and also, we naturally place more value on Christian nurture and family training, for replenishing of the Church, than on spasmodic efforts to gather in wanderers; not, of course, neglecting the latter class. In both cases, teaching of Scripture must be a great part of the work to be done. It is to be feared that at the present time our Church is deficient in exercising this great function of teaching the Word, as the Sabbath School is in the most cases confined to a few children, instead of the whole Church engaged in diligently searching the Scriptures, in order to become wise unto salvation. Even if our public services were modified, so as to furnish less preaching and more teaching, the minister would be unable to do all of the latter, and so the question comes back; "How can we get good teachers?"—and in almost all cases the true answer is. "Train them."

Trained teachers must have a general familiarity with the Bible; with its system of doctrines and duties; with the collateral means of explaining it, such as its structure, history, geography, &c. They must know how to teach; to draw out truth; to make it attractive; in the beginning of a lesson to arrest attention, in the middle to inform the mind, and in the end to affect the heart. They should study and seek to imitate Christ's mode of teaching. They should have tact, not only to draw out and render vivid the truths in the lesson, but to adapt these to the variety of persons taught. Under such teaching the Church has a right to expect blessed spiritual results, and the production of a higher type of christian character. To get such teachers hard

study is essential, and here as everywhere else, the value of the stimulating and testing of severe examinations becomes apparent.

The plan of the convener and the tentative examination proposed, will be quite practicable if our people will make an earnest and faithful effort to carry them out. The committee earnestly appeal to make such an effort, satisfied that, if partially unsuccessful in some cases, even in these it will do good; and that it will prepare the way for progressive improvement in the future.

TENT-MAKING MISSIONARIES.

TWO HUNDRED MISSIONARIES were sent out to labour among the heathen by Pastor Gossner of Berlin, each of whom was prepared to adopt the plan of the Apostle Paul who supported himself by tent making. "Gossner required his Missionaries, not only that they should feel certain of their own conversion and of their call to the work, but also that they should have faith to depend on the Lord for their support. He promised none of them a fixed salary, but only entrusted them to the Lord whose "arm is not shortened" since the time He supported his first messengers; and he fully believed that he who fed the ravens would not forget them. He told them that as far as the Lord gave to him, he would readily give to them; and this he gladly and liberally did, as all his Missionaries testify. For them only he lived and worked, but he never bound himself by any promises, but rather warned them to count the cost ere they put their hand to the plough.

The example of Paul who while he preached, wrought as a tent-maker, Gossner constantly set before his men and if each one sent out by him were to be asked if he ever suffered want, I am sure," says Rev. Dr. Prockenow, "he would answer, 'No Never.' Most of them rather suffered from abundance