

If sinners entice thee, consent thou not.—Prov. i, 10.

Our Mission Union,

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Christ's precious blood, had risen to be "forever with the Lord."

This is one of many cases, and when asked sometimes, if we see any results of the work in the Hospital, we think of those who have learned the "way of salvation" while in its wards, and rejoice that God hath counted us worthy to serve Him in this work.

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

BY REV. JOHN McEWEEN, Secretary S.S. Association of Canada.

The next six months will be largely occupied in the study of Old Testament history, as given in the two books of Kings. Instead of presenting some fruitful thoughts on the lessons of the next two weeks, we wish to submit a few suggestions as to method in Old Testament study, with the hope of directing the personal preparation of the teacher from week to week.

Aim at five readings of the lessons, with a distinct object in each reading; and taking each reading and its object each day will greatly help for the teaching of the lesson.

1. Read to note all the persons and parties named in the lesson, with such information concerning them as is given, or may be obtained in other parts of the Word.

2. Read and make a careful inventory of all their doings or sayings, as recorded in their past, present or future bearings,—these can be classified on the line bearing the names of the actors.

3. Carefully gather up in this third reading all the mental pictures in the lessons, as regards places, groups of persons or doings that can be pictured, turn them about in the mind, and throw them on the imagination until you can think and talk pictorially. This is essentially the level of the boy's knowledge and interest; and such modes of presentation will always secure his intelligent attention.

4. These three readings will put you in fair possession of the material of the lesson; and in the next reading find and catalogue the teachings of the lessons—on right and wrong—God and Providence—worship and work—Christ and salvation, as promised and experienced—not because you can teach them all, but because you need them all to enable you to make a selection and teach that selection, and laying up reserves for future use.

5. Read with all the past investigations before you, and find the scope of the entire lesson,—the Golden Text should express this scope, or the central thought. Prayerfully and carefully persist in your preparation along this line and after this method for the next six months, and you and your scholars will be greatly enriched for the time to come. These Old Testament lessons furnish the

best possible selection for this method. In teaching these lessons to the class, let every pupil have his eye on the written record; and call for the parties and persons, their doings and sayings; and having secured their attention, give them the mental pictures and such of the teachings as you may select. We will be glad to know if this outline of method has been found to be helpful.

The First Step.

[ORIGINAL]

[The following letter addressed to Mr. W. H. Howland, was written by a young man, confined in the Central Prison, Toronto. Written by one who is not a Christian, it is of course to be expected that here and there the idea of self-sufficiency is brought forward. There is, however, the right thought at the close—"By God's help," for without that, all efforts are unavailing.—ED.]



HERE is an old French proverb, "It is only the first step which costs anything"—and never is its truth more verified than in the first step on the downward path; and if there be one, who on reading this little episode, may be led to pause ere that step be taken, these words will not have been written in vain:—

It is now nearly three years since I determined to leave the Old Country to seek a new life in Canada. Preparatory to my departure I spent a week at Oxford with my tutor, a high-minded Evangelical Anglican Minister, who well knowing the temptation to which a young man is always exposed in a new country, where he is unknown and friendless, procured me a letter of recommendation from a mutual friend to the Rev. Mr. R——, endorsed by his Grace the late Archbishop of Canterbury, who as he laid his hand on my head, in his final words said "Be sure and ally yourself to some religious body." In Montreal, where I remained some weeks his advice was rigorously followed. Through the interest of new friends I got an excellent situation, and furnished with letters to several members of the Toronto Y. M. C. A., full of hope, I entered on my new duties in this city. About a week after my residence here, I thought I would present my letters to Mr. R—— and for that purpose I one evening set out. A sudden storm burst overhead and I took shelter in a newspaper office, from which retreat I was decoyed by the strains of a band. I entered the building from which the music proceeded and found myself in a saloon, arranged like the cafés in France. I had spent but a few minutes in the place ere I fell before the temptation offered, and when I left, it was in company with my new companions. In five minutes, some of the foremost were engaged in an altercation with the police, three of the party of whom I was one spent the remainder of the night in the Police Station. Though I was