

The Primary Quarterly

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GREAT delight it has been to the editor that the PRIMARY QUARTERLY and PRIMARY LEAFLET have been in such brisk demand, for there is nothing that he and those who help him value more than the high privilege of teaching the very little ones. Instructing these is like sowing in the early springtime. The sun is warm, the air is moist, the soil is greedy for the seed. Of course, it grows. A later sowing is by no means so sure.

This very demand caused embarrassment last quarter. We had printed *a very large edition* both of the QUARTERLY and the LEAFLET, but the orders fairly showered upon us, and some have had actually to wait for this present issue. We are taking care to provide another time for the biggest shower that can fall. Fruitful showers they are.

"Do you really intend the PRIMARY QUARTERLY and LEAFLET for little ones who cannot read?" some have asked us in surprise. "Why not?" "Is there not too much in them," is the reply; "how can the little ones master it all?"

Well, let us see. Take the first lesson of the quarter. The child cannot read, but his eyes and ears are very sharp. He fastens at once on the picture of the strange looking heathen idol. Explain what it is and he will quickly make choice as between worship of such a creature and of the great God who made and loves us all.

Now tell him how God's own people had turned their backs on Him for just such idols and how faithful Hosea, who was loyal to his Lord, pleaded with them to come back. This prepares for the Golden Text. The words are easy and it is soon learned—here it is—"Come and let us return unto the Lord." This is the key to the lesson.

THE LESSON RETOLD may come next. Read it over to the child two or three times on as many different days, and you will scarcely need to repeat the ANSWERS when you ask the QUESTIONS. The child's nimble tongue will be too quick for you.

Perhaps he can just spell out the I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY, which is always in big letters to catch the eye—and the heart, as well. It is quite as readily memorized as is the Catechism, with its admirably simple language and clear thought.

The Scripture Text is given in full chiefly that those who teach the child may have it at hand to answer the questions that are sure to be asked. The Lesson Hymn, seeking, as it does, to give wings to the chief practical truth of the lesson, comes last and may be said or sung. It needs no explanation:

"If I come to Jesus,
He will hear my prayer,
For He loves me dearly
And my sins did bear."



A Talk with Parents by a Primary Teacher

M. S. C.
By Rae Furland Readman

Dear Christian parents, what do you covet most earnestly for your children? I think I hear you answer "that they may early be true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ"; and many a one will add, "I do pray for them, and try to teach them all I can." Some will go further and say, "But it seems as if my prayers were not answered and my long talks were all wasted. My elder children cause me more anxious thought than do my little ones."

Dear fathers and mothers, however many talks may have been wasted, not one earnest prayer is lost, though it may not be answered in the time or way you expect.