

(d) The preaching of Stephen, and the work of Philip in Samaria are due to the direct work of the Spirit, while the call of Peter to admit the Gentile Cornelius into the Church comes from the same source.

(e) The foreign missionary movement. Here again the activity of the divine power is seen in this memorable expansion of the Church.

Thus on each critical occasion, the divine power of Jesus is made manifest, so that every step is inspired by his wisdom. The disciples learned that it was not merely their own strength that was effecting all this change, but that their unseen Master was present to fulfil his promise. And as we think of the Forward Movement of the Church to-day, we must not make the fatal mistake of neglecting this spirit of Jesus. We must not forget that it is the Church of Christ, and that he is present with us to give us wisdom and power and devotion. We must lay emphasis on the spiritual realities, and so dedicate ourselves to prayer and service, that the Holy Spirit of God may take possession of us and rule in our hearts.

"Jesus, with thy Church abide :
Be her Saviour, Lord, and Guide
While on earth her faith is tried :
We beseech thee, hear us."

2. *The Human Agents.* God works through the will and intellect of men and women, who become his agents. This is clearly illustrated in :

(a) The manner in which great leaders appear in every new crisis. Peter comes forward in a new light. He is no longer the weak and impulsive man who fails before the taunts of the crowd, but he is a bold and resourceful leader. He is a pioneer who is ready to open the door unto the Gentiles that they may become heirs along with the Jews. So also Stephen boldly proclaims the larger truth of the Gospel, and suffers as the first in the noble army of the martyrs, while he introduces us to Paul, who is to be the new hero of the Church in its missionary enterprise.

(b) The same fact is evident in the work of the ordinary member of the Church. The rank and file of the people assume responsibility for the support of the Church. They all continue in prayer and in the fellowship of the apostles, they all exercise the duty of supporting the poor and weak, they act as agents in spreading the truth, while they also choose the men who are to take the oversight of things. Every member is a servant in the Early Church, which is not an autocracy where one or a few rule, but is a democracy where the whole community takes part in the task of government.

(c) The human side is also sadly evident in the elements of selfishness and evil which manifest themselves in the greed of Ananias and Sapphira and the sin of Simon Magus—forces which have continued in the Church throughout all ages, and threaten to restrict and hamper the working of the divine Spirit of Jesus.

It is as the members feel their individual responsibility in this great mission of the Church to evangelize and purify the world that they also come to recognize the limitation of their own power, and are more and more impressed with the necessity of seeking the help of the divine grace which God is waiting to impart.

Halifax, N.S.

The Teachers' Meeting

By John K. McMeekin, Jr.

This meeting is one of the most important meetings held in our Sunday School. We call for a meeting once a month, though I must say that we have often to forego our regular meeting on account of other meetings. Our aim is to have an up-to-date School, so that when a teacher or officer has anything that I think is of importance a special meeting is called.

At the meeting no time is wasted. We get busy at once, ask some one to open with prayer and then proceed with the business. It has always been my aim to conduct this meeting in a thorough business manner, keep strictly to business in hand, and not allow discussions to drift from one thing to another, and getting nowhere. We discuss one item at a time and finish it.

It is important to keep the teachers thinking, because when the mind is working, you are going to get beneficial results. If there seems to be a lull come over the meeting, the superintendent should help out by offering suggestions himself.

The superintendent must be a live wire, otherwise, I am afraid, the Teachers' Meeting and the Sunday School will find there is something missing. A good superintendent should know his teachers well, try and get every teacher to express himself. There is many a good teacher who, when it comes to the meeting, seems to have very little to say, while he may be withholding some valuable suggestion. Such teachers should be encouraged to speak out, thus helping to make it a real Teachers' Meeting.

Get the teachers to find out how others are working in different Schools, discuss these matters, and if they are improvements, try them. Impress on the teachers the valuable help that is to be had by attending conven-