

to press this view of the matter, it must be admitted that an indispensable qualification of teachers, secular or religious, is that they themselves know *what* they teach, and *how* to teach. No one who is practically conversant with Sabbath-School work will deny that a great deal of the teaching is superficial and therefore inefficient. There is no argument used in favour of a thorough and special education for the office of the ministry that does not apply with at least equal force to the Sabbath-School teacher, and there is no more reason why we should have trained teachers in the secular schools than in the Sabbath-School. So long as the Sabbath-School suffers by reason of incompetent teaching, the Church and the cause of religion must also suffer with it. It is therefore the duty of the Church, so far as it can, to suggest if it cannot provide the remedy. Such classes as we have been referring to have passed beyond the stage of mere experiments. They have been tried with marked success, largely in the United States, and to some extent in Canada. Toronto has had a number of them: the latest there is in connection with Rev. D. J. Macdonnell's Congregation. In Ottawa we read of a Normal Class having been instituted. Will not some of the brethren who have made themselves practically acquainted with the *modus operandi*, give to the Church at large, through our columns, the benefit of their experience in this highly important matter. We shall esteem a practical paper on this subject as a very reasonable and valuable New Year's Gift to the *Record*.

### Week of Universal Prayer.

IT being desirable that early intimation should be given as to the Annual Week of Universal Prayer in January, we have been requested by the Council of the Evangelical Alliance to publish the following topics suggested for daily exhortation and intercession:

SUNDAY, *January 5th.*—Sermons:—"The years of the right hand of the most High."—Psalm lxxvii., 10.

MONDAY, *January 6th.*—Praise:—Praise to God for his long-suffering kindness and mercy, for the goodness of His providence; and especially for

salvation in Jesus Christ, and for the blessings enjoyed under the present dispensation of the Holy Ghost. Thanksgiving for the cessation of war and the peaceful settlements of European questions; also for the Divine blessing which has attended the International meetings and services held in the *Salle Evangelique*, the distribution of the Holy Scriptures and other christian work during the Universal Exhibition in Paris. Confession of unbelief and unfruitfulness. Ps. cxvii.,; Ps. cvii., 33-43; Rom. xi. 33-36; Acts ii., 14-21; Ps. xlvii. 6-11; Dan ix., 3-10.

TUESDAY, *January 7th.*—Prayer:—For the power of the Holy Spirit to rest upon and operate in the Church of God everywhere, so that the disciples may be led into all the truth; that errors in doctrine and corruption of Scriptural worship may be stayed; that faith and hope, brotherly kindness and charity may be increased; and that the general tone of spiritual life may be elevated in communion with the Lord. Intercession for believers who are afflicted. John xviii., 36-38; John xvi., 14. 2 Tim. iii., 1-5; Rom. xii., 9-18; Eph. i., 15-23; Ps. xxxiv., 17-19.

WEDNESDAY, *January 8th.*—Prayer:—For the energetic operation of the Holy Spirit in the world at large, convincing men of sin, of righteousness, and of Judgment; and bringing those who are merely nominal Christians under the quickening and transforming power of the Truth. Also for Christian families; for the training of the young in the fear of the Lord, that they may be kept from error and evil, and especially that the grace of God may be upon them. John xvi., 7-14; Gen. xviii., 17-19; Col. iii., 16-24; Prov. xxii., 6. 1 Chron. iv., 9-10.

THURSDAY, *January 9th.*—Prayer:—For the effusion of the Holy Ghost "upon all flesh"; for the continuance of peace; for the establishment of righteous government; for the spread of enlightenment, goodwill, and love of Justice among all nations, and for their conversion to Christ; for the removal of intemperance and other social evils; special prayer for the nation, its Sovereign, and all in authority. Is. xi., 1-10; Prov. xiv., 14-27; Is. lxi. Gal. v., 19-26; 1 Tim. ii., 1-4.

FRIDAY, *January 10th.*—Prayer:—For the blessing of the Spirit of God to accompany evangelistic and missionary labours, and render them fruitful to Christ; for the turning of all Israel to the Lord; for the growth and stability of the young Churches gathered from heathen communities; for the revival of Bible Christianity in Eastern lands; for the preaching of the Gospel among all nations, and for "cheerful giving" on the part of those who go not themselves to this work. Matt. xxviii., 19-20; Rom. xi. 26; Acts xi., 19-30; Matt. xxiv., 14 Phil. iv., 10-19.

SATURDAY, *January 11th.*—Prayer:—For those who preside over the Churches of the Saints, and for all who are called to preach and to teach; for the due observance of the Lord's day; for the wise guidance of biblical translators and critics; for successful resistance to secularism and infidelity; and for the Divine blessing to accompany and follow the General Conference of Christians of various nations to be held this year in Switzerland, Eph. 18-19 vi., Is. lviii., 13-14; 2 Tim. ii., 15-19.

SUNDAY, *January 12th.*—Sermons:—Looking for "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. i., 7. and Matt. xxiv., 42-51.

A TRUE Christian will not be satisfied with the thought of going to heaven alone.

If a thing is not revealed, we are at once conscious that it cannot be of importance for us to know it.