

The Teachers Monthly

Rev. E. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Editor

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"NO NEW COMMUNICANTS"

A RALLY DAY CHALLENGE

By Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, D.D.

There were three thousand, seven hundred and eighty-five Sunday Schools reported to the last General Assembly.

In two thousand, five hundred and forty-six of these there were no new communicants.

That is to say, that from less than one third of the Sunday Schools connected with our church new communicants were added during the year. More than two thirds reported not a single addition from their classes to the communicant membership of the church.

Add these two additional facts : that the number of Schools reporting new communicants was nine less than the previous year ; and that there were three hundred and fourteen fewer new communicants from the Sunday Schools than for that year ; and this further fact, that the total number of scholars added to the communion roll was only seven thousand, six hundred and twenty-five—*less than two from each School* ; and there is a situation that affords a challenge to all ministers and sessions and Sunday School officers and teachers,—a challenge which demands immediate and most energetic response.

On the Sunday School, as an agency of the church specially concerned with the young, rests the obligation, in a very peculiar degree, of leading the children and the young people to a knowledge of Christ as their Saviour, and of marshaling them under His banner as His "true soldiers and servants unto life's end."

Has any School done its duty, even the smallest School, when only two have gone from its classes, in a year, to sit at the communion table? And what shall be said of the two thousand five hundred and forty-six Schools from which none have so gone ?

WHERE THE LACK IS

The lack of communicants from our Sunday Schools means simply the failure to use the means by which they may be had. The ground is good ; the seed has been sown ; it is springing up in many hearts—in far more, probably, than we dream of. It is the reaping that is at fault. The call to minister and session and parents and teachers—for they are all concerned in this matter—is, "Thrust in the sickle ; for the time of the harvest is come."

The sickle that has the keenest edge is the personal word—the spoken word. It was so proved in the teaching of the Great Master Himself. It has always so been, and so will ever be.

It is evidently open to every one and at all times, to use this weapon of conquest. It is a fine art which should be studied by every follower and servant of the Lord Jesus. Not to speak of its well nigh two hundred thousand families, our church has well over two thousand ministers and missionaries in its Home fields, and there are more than thirty thousand teachers and officers in its Sunday Schools. Imagine the result if each one of all those thus concerned with