

Know Your Class.

BY JENNIE M. BINGHAM.

A TEACHER who had heard of the delightful relation established between a teacher and her class by the writing of birthday letters, resolved to adopt the plan. But unfortunately she did not know her class of bright boys and girls, and did not appreciate the necessity of knowing them. She wrote the same letter (with very little variation) to each one. It was the same little sermonette to each, irrespective of sex or employment or previous condition of educational advantage.

Can you see how interested John would have been (since John is a famous foot-ball player) if this teacher had written that she hoped he would be as earnest in seeking the best gift of God as he was in his game. Every game thereafter would have suggested that message. And then if she had thought to congratulate him on his recent foot-ball victory, there would have been established a new sympathy between the teacher and John.

Supposing she had written to Nellie, who is clerk in a store, "I thought the other day when you waited on me so courteously, that I wished you would be as kind to my Master and as anxious to serve Him."

Supposing she had entered in like manner into the life of each, can you see what immense advantage that would have given the teacher?

It was said of one teacher who knew his class only as so much humanity that he suffered from colour-blindness. He could not distinguish at all the infinite variety of shades and temperaments and surroundings.

Some teaching is like the sermons of that army chaplain. He preached away faithfully without the slightest visible effect, at which he wondered greatly. He said, "It is strange the soldiers do not care for these sermons. My congregation at home liked them very much."

He did not see that an army of rough soldiers suffering hardships and facing death needed very different preaching from his cultured village congregation.

How may we know our scholars? Visitation will do very much. This reaches the irregular members who so much need ministry. Ralph Wells said, "My teachers agreed to make monthly visits. An experience of forty years of several schools has convinced me that almost all the conversions of scholars occurred in the lapses of teachers who faithfully shepherded their flocks."

Receiving your scholars into your home is another way to know them, and as an agency to give you influence over them it is unsurpassed.

Wells gives this incident: "'What is your secret, my dear Mrs. T——?' I asked the teacher of a young men's Bible-class in a school near Spurgeon's tabernacle in London. There was a large lecture room filled, and most of them had there found the Saviour. 'Come and have supper with me to-morrow night, and I will tell you,' she said. Taking a cab, I went some six miles to find out the secret. At the table were three of the young men I had seen in the class, and Mrs. T—— told me it was her habit to ask that number in turn every evening. Thus she knew all their business associations, books, and trials, and every communion season found some of them for the first time at the Lord's table. 'One by one,' said Mrs. T——, 'we persuade them to Jesus.'"—*Sunday-school Journal*.

Literary Note.

THE Christian Literature Company have in press "A History of Methodism," in two volumes, by the Rev. J. M. Buckley, D.D., editor of *The Christian Advocate*. The work will be profusely illustrated, containing portraits of the founders and pioneers of Methodism, and the only complete series of bishops of the Church, living and dead. Great pains have been taken to secure of these the best and most authentic likenesses, and the publishers have received in this direction invaluable assistance from the Methodist Book Concerns of New York and Nashville, and from the Rev. Mr. Thomas, the Librarian of the Methodist Historical Society. The illustrations in this volume include reproductions in fac simile from Wesley's Journal, an account of Embury's conversion in his own handwriting, etc. The work will be sold by subscription only, and will be of interest to Methodists everywhere.

WE have received the following from Frederick Booth-Tucker, of the Salvation Army in the United States:

Dear Sir,—I shall be grateful if you will inform the readers of your valuable paper that the Salvation Army has a bureau for tracing lost and missing friends, thousands of whom are found every year. We are especially able to deal with these matters because we have agents throughout the world. No charge is made save for postage. Letters should be addressed, "Inquiry Department," 122 W. 14th Street, New York.