

PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT.

"The Child Garden."

Our Lord hath a beautiful garden,
We have chosen our lifework there,
Where the little ones of his kingdom
Need constant and loving care.

Guard we these tender flow'rets,
Turning them toward the light;
With sunshine of loving-kindness,
Helping them grow aright.

Then let us look ever upward,
That they will look upward too,
And take for our motto in all things,
"Unto the least be true."

—School Education.

The Lessons for the Quarter.

How shall we interest little children in these historical lessons? Many teachers—perhaps you among the number—have said, and are saying, "These lessons from the Acts are so difficult! How can I interest the little ones in them?" There is but one answer: Get interested in them yourself by getting acquainted with Paul and his coworkers. When they become real flesh-and-blood men to you (and not until then), you will be able to interest the children in them. Be fully persuaded, in your heart as well as in your mind, that these workers had a great and beautiful work to do, and keep the work always before the eyes of the children.

By the blessing of God upon your faithful labors a great ambition to do just this kind of work may be roused in little hearts, never to be lost in the world's rush and hurry! What a hope and stimulus.

Child-Gardening.

BY MARY A. LATHBURY.

"THE Lord into his garden comes,
The roses yield their rich perfumes,
The lilies grow and thrive."

Teacher of the primary class, have you studied your little plot of immortals individually, or in a mass? Is it a bed of pansies, differing in color, perhaps, but still all pansies; or a surprise garden, such as children sometimes make from packets of mixed seeds; or is it a garden wisely planned to hold families of plants, and where, singly or in

groups, each one can be given its own soil, and each provided with the conditions of growth that it by nature demands?

In the season given to the work of the primary teacher it is always "first the blade" that must be ministered to, and it takes a wise gardener to know one species from another at this early stage. But there is a knowledge born of love for plants in gardeners, and there is a heavenly perception given to most women, and to some men, that enables them to recognize life by its first forms.

As the wise gardener knows that the delicate shoots of carnation are not those of the sturdy peony; as he knows the blade of the lily from the crosier of the fern; so the wise-hearted teacher knows her little human plants.

It is always well to prepare the way of the Lord. He alone knows the children—the plants of our heavenly Father's planting. He sets them in your garden and bids you tend them and give them the nurture that they need. He expects that you will study them as individual forms of life, and give them their meat in due season. His spiritual air and sunshine, dew and rain, are always ready to use, and they are yours to use. If you have the culture of little souls upon your heart, you will do as the gardener does. He sets this plant in the full sunshine, and that in partial shade. He enriches the soil of the rose, and plants his mignonette in the sand. He separates these, and he masses those. He gives to this a border space, and to that a trellis, and the plants respond to every touch of the hand that trains them, and blossom out, sooner or later, into the life that was all the time folded up in the tender shoot.

There is a beautiful phrase in the word describing those who wrought for the Tabernacle—"All the women who were wise-hearted." To have that blending of love and wisdom; of mother love and fatherly judgment; of insight and foresight, that the word "wise-hearted" would express, is to be a teacher in the heavenly sense of the word.

Know your children, as you would have your gardener know his plants, if you would help the Lord of the garden to raise up "plants of renown."

Does a teacher say, "It is impossible for me to know my class of one hundred children individually?" True. A friend of mine has six gardeners because the work cannot be done by one. Choose