

Following Up the Holiday Makers

"We have some Sunday School teacher. He sends me a card like that every week." The speaker was a boy on vacation. He was spending his summer holidays far removed from Sunday Schools in a New Ontario "resort." The card contained a word of greeting and also gave book, chapter and verses of the last week's Sunday School lesson.

Once or twice during the summer, there came a long, friendly, intimate letter telling the boy what the teacher was doing and opening up the way for return confidences.

Such a teacher was taking his work seriously, and was "establishing a connection," as a business man would say, for the coming fall and winter. On the basis of such a friendly relationship one could easily imagine that such a teacher had little difficulty with his scholars in class, and, to use a boy's phrase, "fairly had them eating out of his hand."

The Sunday School Picnic

To most scholars there is no brighter date in the whole calendar than that of the annual Sunday School picnic. The occasion is one to be exploited to the utmost. It is one of rollicking fun for its own sake,—and wholesome Christianity seeks fun for its own sake. It is also one by which the Sunday School scholar may be more strongly attached to his Sunday School and his teacher. The annual Sunday School picnic helps to create the atmosphere of mutual goodwill upon which the very life of the Sunday School depends, and which is the groundwork of whatever good it accomplishes. The teacher should make an effort to get every member of the class at the picnic, and to be there himself to romp with them.

It is worth while giving some time to the preparation and "running off" of the Sunday School picnic. Pains should be taken to get the scholars to a place which affords them time and opportunity for the greatest amount and variety of real fun. Such a place is often nearer home than may be suspected. The sports should be entrusted to those who have a genius for such things, and the expense of prizes should not be cut down to a mean figure. Eating is a big factor in the successful picnic. The tables must "groan under the weight" of good things if the picnic is to "go."

One thing further remains to make the Sunday School picnic what it should be. It should be a congregational affair. Parents as well as children should be there. When this is so, not only Sunday School and church, but also family, ties are strengthened; and through meeting the fathers and mothers under such circumstances, when stiffness and formality are thrown to the winds, the teacher becomes still more closely attached to and more familiar with the actual life of the scholar.

"The Army and Religion"

It is not going too far to say that "The Army and Religion" is one of the most important of the innumerable books produced as the result of the Great War. The scope of the book is indicated by its sub-title, *An Inquiry and Its Bearing upon the Religious Life of the Nation*. The "inquiry" was made, and its "bearing" was discussed by a large and representative committee in Great Britain. The outcome is this book, which is edited by Rev. Professor D. S. Cairns, D.D., of Aberdeen.

Every chapter of the book will be read with absorbing interest by the many who are deeply concerned about the subjects with which they deal. Special attention, however, is here directed to the chapter on Education and Religious Teaching, written by Rev. A. A. David, D.D., Headmaster of the famous Rugby School.

Here are two of the conclusions which Dr. David bases on the results of the Committees' investigations:

- (1) "Many whose religious education has not been neglected have forgotten the definite instruction they have received."
- (2) "A very large proportion have retained hardly any conscious relationship with the Person to whom that teaching was designed to introduce them."