

# The Teachers Monthly

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

Vol. XVII.

Toronto, January, 1911

No. 1

The key to success in the Sunday School work is well trained teachers. The pathway to training is study. Fortunately, our church has a splendid equipment of Teacher Training study courses. It remains for ministers and superintendents to utilize these to the full in the improvement of the present teaching staff and the training of recruits.

The interest is deep and widespread in such evangelistic campaigns as that conducted in the late fall in the Kootenay country, and the campaign just getting under way in Toronto. It is felt on "all hands" that our church does well in this organized and public way to seek to win men to Christ. But there are less conspicuous methods that must not be neglected. Indeed, the effectiveness of the "campaign" depends largely on the faithfulness of the individual private personal appeal. This is the great field for the Sunday School worker. If his work is thoroughly done, the need of the larger effort disappears.

## The Great Discovery

It is told of Lord Kelvin, the famous professor of natural philosophy in Glasgow, that he was once asked which discovery of his life he considered the most valuable. He replied: "I consider the most valuable discovery of my life the discovery I made when I discovered that Jesus Christ was my Saviour." A similar testimony is that of Sir James Y. Simpson, the great surgeon, who gave to the world the boon of chloroform. In answer to the question, "What is your greatest discovery?" he said simply, "That I have a Saviour."

It is the wonderful privilege of the Sunday School teacher to help each scholar to make

for himself this greatest of all discoveries. And that teaching will fall sadly short of the true aim which does not lead to a personal knowledge and acceptance of Jesus as Redeemer and Lord. It is not enough that we are "busy here and there" giving instruction in matters important but not essential, while there is neglect of the "one thing needful". Let that lesson alone be reckoned successful which, in some way, helps toward the making of the great discovery.

## Making Our Own Scenery

By Rev. W. H. Sedgewick, M.A.

"I was in the Spirit." It is the seer of the Apocalypse who is the speaker. But he has just said, "I was in the island"; and it is in the light of the former statement alone that we can read aright the latter statement. "I was in the island",—the bare, lonely, wind-swept island "that is called Patmos". There, ringed round by the tumultuous waters, I was a prisoner for the Word of God. There, sundered from friends by the salt, estranging sea, I was an exile for the testimony of Jesus Christ. And there, a prisoner and an exile, I was "in tribulation". That is all he says about it; there is nothing more definite than that. Did hard taskmasters make him serve with rigor in mine or quarry? Tradition says so, but we do not know. We know enough, however. We can see John,—no longer young, his hair touched with the snows of winter,—pacing the rocky height, with wistful gaze out across the briny belt of water; and we can hear, across all the years, the waves lapping against the crags, with moans which, to the exile, sounded like the dirge of his captivity.

"I was in the island." You know what that means, you who have had an insular