

but had not spoken till now. Then, and not till then, did the youth tell the older man his life story, and a sordid one it was: a son of wealthy parents, every wish gratified without effort, the drift of indolence toward drink and its companion evils. A marriage that started happily was being wrecked, until wife and babe had been practically deserted.

When in London the young man went from bad to worse until he thought of suicide in the Thames. When about to drain a glass of liquor, something arrested him. Memory showed him his past; remorse was followed by a fresh determination to "come to himself," and the glass was dashed to the floor, its contents untasted.

He never was able to remember what followed. He recalled nothing of going to Liverpool or boarding a boat Canada-bound, for an American city was his home. On the voyage he had spoken to no one, but now he had found a sympathetic Christian listener. The man was without home or work, barred from his family, the most unhappy creature in the world, crushed beneath his sins.

The teacher took him to his own home for a few days until he found work for him. The unfortunate man was highly educated and

had held responsible positions. From the first Sunday, and for some years thereafter, he attended the Bible Class of his benefactor—not perfunctorily, for there was no urging. Gradually he picked up the threads of his life as he developed into a close student of the Word and a successful social worker. That class of a hundred men never had a more devoted and earnest member, and no one ever lived a more consistent Christian life. He was truly born again.

The teacher ultimately brought about a reconciliation with the estranged parents and wife. The now happy husband and father set up a new home in a Pennsylvania city, where in time he became superintendent of a rich coal mining company. But under the new life he also entered upon active Christian work by starting and superintending a mission Sunday School of foreigners and engaging in other Christian activities.

That's the story in a nut-shell, but how much the little nut-shell holds! God was in it all, and especially when he used a Bible Class teacher as his disciple, and a Bible Class as a training school for the returned prodigal. He that was lost was found!

Toronto

## Assistant Teachers in the Beginners Department

BY RAE FURLANDS

A fully organized, up-to-date Beginners Department, with plenty of room and all needed appliances and a large number of capable assistants, is a very delightful, as well as a very rare, place in which to find oneself.

In such a Department the work of the assistants would be: to see that visitors are comfortably seated in the place set apart for them; that the children's wraps are removed and then properly put on again at going home time; to mark the attendance; to take the offering; to distribute lesson papers; to attend to handwork; to listen to the confidences of the children and acquaint the teacher with anything she ought to know; to attend to the general comfort of the children; to hold familiar conversation, each with her own little group,—at the proper time, which is *not* when the teacher is trying to do something else with them in order to explain individual difficulties which may arise in regard to words and phrases in the hymns, lessons, etc.; and to attend to certain parts of the supplemental work.

The assistants should, as a general rule, be ready to go, each with her own group of scholars, as their teacher, when they are

promoted to the Primary Department. This, for two reasons:

*First*, they are acquainted with the children and know how they have been taught and the line of thought to which they are accustomed.

*Secondly*, because it gives the young teachers an opportunity to find themselves. They may continue in the Primary, or, if better adapted to the Beginners, may return to that Department when the next period for promotion arrives.

Though all this may be ideal and very pleasant, let no one think that good, perhaps equally good, work may not be done in the more ordinary Beginners Departments which usually have, of necessity, only two or three assistants.

No matter how small the class there should always be, at least, one assistant, because it is almost impossible for the teacher to be present year after year, fifty-two times; therefore some one should always be in training, ready to take her place during unavoidable absence.

It has been said that a Beginners teacher is