

The Teachers Monthly

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Clinching Nails

It will be a great winter's work.

No true teacher in the Sunday School, whether skilled or unskilled, is ever satisfied until each and every one of his scholars has been led to personal decision for Christ.

The great anxiety of his heart is how this shall be accomplished; for if knowledge does not lead to decision for and committal to Christ, the task of instruction has failed. It has not been well done. The earnest teacher recognizes this and is eager to be shown how.

Experience has a thousand times demonstrated that the failure arises through not clinching the nails. The class is profoundly impressed; but there is no individual follow-up. It is a wise, a very wise, teacher who seeks out his scholars one by one, and clinches the nails. A kindly hand on the shoulder of a boy, when alone with his teacher; a tender, straight question, or appeal for decision, is often all that is needed.

Drive the nails; yes, by all means. But clinch them, too. It will be a grand winter's work.

Our Confidence

Across a river forming the outlet of a lake in Northern Ontario has been thrown a dam to hold back the waters of the lake. Huge rafts of logs are towed down the lake to the dam, which is then opened so that the whole mighty force of the restrained waters is set free to carry the logs resistlessly down the stream.

In the power and grace of God the Christian worker has a reservoir of infinite resources, which like the waters of the lake loosed by the opening of the dam, carries forward his enterprises begun in humble and prayerful dependence upon the divine blessing to the goal of assured success. Failure

is impossible for any undertaking which is really of God. For all that He is stands pledged to the achievement of its end.

This is the ground on which the confidence of the worker for God rests. The energy that formed and sustains the universe is with him; therefore he should never be dismayed.

The Persistency of Early Ideals

By Rev. A. L. Fraser, B.D.

When Daniel was threatened with the lions' den, he turned all the more earnestly to his devotions. There, in his room, with the windows open to Jerusalem, he prayed and gave thanks to God three times a day, "*as he did aforetime.*" In these four words we have an illustration of the persistency of early ideals. This old world is a powerful subduer. We start out in life with dreams and visions, but too often the world puts out our fires, buries our hopes, pulls down our sails—then "Custom lies on us heavy as frost, deep almost as life."

These words, "*As he did aforetime,*" take us back to Daniel's homeland, and call up his parents and teachers,—those who helped him to take up a right attitude to life.

When Daniel appears to us first, we see him a lad with strong convictions, a certain philosophy of life, and his history, as we know it, is the testing of all this. This testing came about in a three-fold way:

First, he was tested by the glare of a new environment. Incidentally, in reading the book of Daniel, we see what the life was like into the midst of which he was thrust. Would he conform to all this—eat what they did, bow to what they bowed to, be what they were? He said, "No." The "*aforetime*" teaching was an anchor in this new sea.