

The Teachers Monthly

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We welcome this month and next a very large additional number of teachers and scholars into the circle of our readers. Their schools have been closed for the winter. They are glad now to get back to work, and we are glad to have them. They will find, we think, that the Lesson Helps are better than ever, and the illustrated papers, too. We shall be glad to send samples of any or all of our publications free of charge.

Have you ever seriously planned in the spring time to keep the school open all winter? Yes, in the spring, when the school is opening up after the silent months. It is full of vigor then, and enterprise, and a deliberate resolution to keep it open every Sabbath until the same time next year is worth making. If teachers, and scholars, and parents will agree upon it, it will be found, in most cases, not half so hard to carry out as was feared.

AN EASTER ALLEGORY

By Rev. Robert Haddow, B.D.

There was an ancient city ruled by a great and righteous king. Some of the inhabitants were loyal to the king and tried to keep his laws; others were disloyal and acted as they pleased without regard to the king's will. The disloyal citizens boasted that they were free, and affirmed that happiness could only be found in a life of lawlessness such as theirs. Many of them declared, also, that the king paid no attention to the conduct of his subjects, and that in the end it would be

as well for those who did their own will as for those who did the king's. The loyal citizens, on the other hand, were satisfied that their life was the happier one; they said the king's laws were good laws and that one could find delight in keeping them; and they maintained, also, that in the end it would appear that those who chose the way of obedience had chosen the better part.

And yet they were hard put to it to hold their position, for the reason which we shall now state. About the city was a great wall which none could climb, and in this wall there was a massive gate which none could open save a certain officer, who visited the city from time to time. This officer was clothed with irresistible authority. He was of stern and awful appearance, his very name struck terror to those who heard it. As often as he came to the city he entered a house—none could tell whose house would be chosen—and laid his hand upon the one who dwelt there. Then he destroyed the house and led the man away, and his fellow-citizens saw him no more. This went on continually, and the perplexing thing was that it happened to loyal and disloyal alike. And the disloyal boasted and said: "One thing comes to all; all alike pass away and cease to be."

For a long time the loyal citizens were troubled by this, for though they were satisfied in their hearts that it was well with their friends who had vanished from their sight, yet they could not prove that it was so.

Then there came to live in the city one who was nobler and greater and more loyal