

# PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEPARTMENT.

## Primary Notes.

THE teacher of the little ones deals with the highest themes—God, Heaven, Eternal Life, The Soul, The Life of the Spirit—and “who is sufficient for these things?”

Surely none, save those who can pray from the heart,

“O teach me, Lord, that I may teach.”

The true primary teacher is ever on the lookout for new helps, new methods, new and better ways of working. It is an inspiration to see a company of these enthusiastic workers gathered in convention, or in one of their own Primary Unions. So ready to give, so ready to take, so full of questions, and so ardently progressive and sympathetic are they!

The spirit, too, which prevails among these workers is of the kindest and most helpful. Who can, indeed, be much with little children and not share in the “kingdom of heaven” spirit?

Primary work and workers received strong indorsement and encouragement at the International Sunday School Convention in Boston. The “State Primary Council,” so successfully inaugurated by New Jersey, was most cordially indorsed, and will doubtless be adopted in its essential features by other States. It is an admirable working plan, and means progress wherever found.

The Summer School of Primary Methods, held in three sections this year in the State of New Jersey, was a full year in advance of last summer's school. The quality of the instruction was high, and teachers and pupils alike—all learners, indeed—rejoiced together in opportunities to give and to take.

But what shall the teachers do to whom such privileges are not granted? All the more keep eyes and ears and heart open to receive the best ways of teaching little children from whatever source. Above all, study the word of God, and the little child! A sympathetic knowledge of the child is an essential to wise, right teaching. The child lives in a world of his own, and that world the teacher must patiently, prayerfully seek to enter. Faith, love, and study will work wonders!

## Birthday Services.

(A BIRTHDAY bank should be found in every primary class. The child who has had a birthday during the week may bring as many pennies as he is years old for the bank, and standing before the school all repeat together the following:)

### BIRTHDAY PRAYER.

Dear Father, let thy blessing rest  
Upon our little friend;  
Thy tender love hath followed (her),  
And shall unto the end.  
We pray thee that (her) life may be  
To loving service given;  
And that we all may dwell at last  
With her, at homes in heaven.

### BIBLE WORDS.

(To be given responsively, or by the superintendent and teachers alone:)

Ye are the children of the Lord.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.

I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said that I would keep thy word.

For length of days and long life and peace shall they add unto thee.

### BIRTHDAY SONG.

Tune—“Precious Jewels.”  
We praise thee, we praise thee,  
Our dear heavenly Father,  
For birthdays, for all days,  
The gifts of thy love.

### Chorus.

Teach us how to spend them.  
Begin them and end them,  
Thy blessing attend them,  
Dear Lord, from above.

We love thee, we love thee,  
Our dear heavenly Father,  
We lift up our voices  
Together in song.

### Chorus.

We know thou dost hear us,  
We know thou art near us,  
To comfort and cheer us,  
And keep us from wrong.

(After the dropping of the pennies, one by one, the children counting as they fall, the following may be said or sung by the class. If sung, let it be to the tune of “Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me:”)