

With such a standard it would have been hard to be. The class activity was new to them and simply revised their whole idea of Sunday School as a place "where a fellow had to sit up like a statue and be talked at," as one chap expressed it. Not only were there fewer outbursts of pent-up energy and much less gen-

eral unrest, but the very fact that they were understood and allowed a reasonable amount of freedom made the boys less rebellious against authority. In short, there was no more trouble from that class and I found much real enjoyment in teaching it.

Toronto

## Bringing the Boys and Girls to Decision for Christ

BY REV. ROBERT POGUE

The special aim of all Sabbath School work should be to help the scholars to make intelligent and willing decisions for Jesus Christ. The Christian life begins in the decision to make Christ Saviour, master and friend. But the Christian life is more than one decision, one act. It is an act followed by an attitude. It is an act of surrender followed by an attitude of surrender. To be a Christian is to let Christ have his way with us in everything. It is to do all that we do to please him and for his glory. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." How shall the teacher lead the boys and girls to make this decision for Christ,—a decision which is followed by a life in which Christ is king in all things?

I. The teacher must have a conviction of the necessity of such a decision. It is true that the boys and girls belong to Christ. This fact should be taught to them from earliest infancy. "Christ died for us," therefore he died for the children. They are his by right of purchase. "Ye are not your own . . . ye are bought with a price." But the teacher must do more than teach this. He must urge the boys and girls to give themselves to Christ in a personal act of surrender, to make true in their own experience, and by their own choice what is already true in the purpose of God.

"Our wills are ours, we know not how ;  
Our wills are ours, to make them thine."

The love of Christ only becomes a fact of experience when we open our hearts to him and receive him as Saviour. When boys or girls voluntarily transfer their lives to Christ, and invite him into the heart, making choice of him as Saviour, master and friend, they are said to have decided for Christ. Much may have led up to that decision, and much will follow it ; but the decision itself marks the beginning of the Christian life.

II. One who has a conviction of the need of the boys and girls for the Saviourhood of Jesus Christ will seek in many ways to win them to him :

1. He will use the regular lesson, when it can at all lend itself to that end, to deepen the sense of the need of Christ, and to urge decision for him. There is a book which bears

the title, *The Perennial Revival*. It describes a congregation where the religious life of its members, their devotion to Christ, and their love for Christ, and their interest in the lost children of the Father are such that people are seeking and finding Christ at all its services. They do not need the help of a professional evangelist to do their work. It should be the same in our Sabbath Schools. The religious atmosphere of the teaching hour ought to be such that those who have not decided for Christ will wish to do so.

2. He will seek special opportunities of presenting the claims of Christ to the members of his class. A teacher who was instrumental in leading every one of a large class of girls,—22 in all—to accept Christ as their personal Saviour, and become members of the church, did it by personal, private conversations at the close of the School hour, and at other times and places as opportunity offered. She would single out a particular girl for prayer and effort. Then at the close of the lesson she would tactfully invite this girl to remain after the others had gone, and when the door of her class room had been closed, she would lovingly urge upon her to accept Christ, and to love and serve him, with the result just stated, that every one became a Christian and a member of the church during the short time she was teacher of the class.

3. Some Sunday Schools have a Decision Day or a Forward Step Day once a year. Such a day may very well be observed even in Schools where the normal condition of things is a constant ingathering of the children into the fold of Christ. This service, where it is held, should receive special preparation. The teacher will be much in prayer before it, will cooperate in every way suggested by the superintendent and the pastor, and will not allow the service to pass without speaking individually to every boy or girl who has not accepted Christ.

4. It need not be said that to have any success in the work of winning the boys and girls to Christ, the teacher must himself be a thoroughly converted person. He must know Christ before he can hope to lead others to know him. The true teacher is a witness for