

The Teachers Monthly

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The present issue of the TEACHERS MONTHLY contains forty-eight pages, the usual number being forty. The pages are added to afford room for additional articles of interest, such as that of Professor Falconer on Books Worth Having, without reducing the space devoted to teaching material. This plan will be followed from time to time throughout the year, as occasion may require.

A well-set table tends to a keener relish and better digestion. In our various publications, therefore, we have steadily kept an eye to good mechanical, as well as to good literary work. As already announced, the forthcoming issues of the TEACHERS MONTHLY, HOME STUDY QUARTERLY, and PRIMARY QUARTERLY will be in enlarged form. With the larger page, and better margins, the reading matter will be more attractive, and the whole appearance greatly improved, as the "proofs" already in hand make manifest.

Now is the time to organize Home Department Classes. The machinery is very simple; no community is too small or too scattered for its successful operation. The instituting of the Home Department is strongly recommended by the General Assembly. *Send to us for leaflet* containing full instructions as to how to proceed.

A. New Prize Competition

Attention is specially drawn to the following interesting offer. Three CASH PRIZES of the value of \$3.00, \$2.00 and \$1.00 respectively, are offered for the three best stories for JEWELS, our illustrated paper for the little ones; stories not to exceed 350 words and to reach the Editor not later than 15th February; manuscripts to be marked by a

motto, which is also to be written on the outside of a sealed envelope containing name and address of the writer. Manuscripts and sealed envelopes, as above, to be sent to Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, Editor JEWELS, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. Copies of JEWELS will be sent to any address, on application.

The Call of the Deliverer.

By Professor W. G. Jordan, D.D.

We often meet with deserts in Bible history, and whenever they are mentioned, we are brought face to face with the deepest things of human life. There is a weird, mystic interest about the lonely struggles through which God's servants have passed in the silent places of the earth. In the wilderness, Elijah, faint in soul, struggled with bitter despondency. From the secrecy of the desert, John the Baptist, the prophet of fire, came forth to herald the kingdom of God. In the desert place alone with the wild beasts, the Son of Man wrestled with the prince of darkness.

These are not mere rhetorical pictures, the products of poetic fancy. There is deep truth and reality in them. The life of the soul needs solitude and many of its fiercest battles must be fought out alone. For all of us, there are deep secrets to be fathomed and hard lessons to be learned, and through such experiences we must pass, feeling the mystery and sacredness of our individual life.

Horeb, the mount of God, is a place of sacred associations. It now suggests to us that in the solitary place God comes to throw light upon the meaning of a man's life. Moses might seem to be forgotten, doomed to insignificance and obscurity. No, God