

The Teachers Monthly

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Figures speak. And their voice is pleasant to hear, when they tell that 237,000,—more than a quarter million,—copies of our various publications go out, from week to week, and month to month, and quarter to quarter, to subscribers; or, again, when they say that more than 75% of the teachers of our Sabbath Schools use the *TEACHERS MONTHLY*, 66% of the scholars, our *QUARTERLIES* and *LEAFLETS*, and 45% one or other of our *Illustrated Papers*. It makes us pleasantly aware of how very big our great family of readers has grown to be, and very anxious to serve them to the utmost of our ability.

But the percentages tell also how much of the field there is still to be overtaken. We shall not be quite satisfied, until the figures are in each case 100%. Our ambition is to serve *every* teacher and *every* scholar throughout the whole church. In this, our present readers are our best helpers. And the help is easily given. A good word does not cost much; but it goes far to commend a publication. Do our *Lesson Helps* and *Illustrated Papers* suit *you*? Say so; and at once some other teacher and some other School will want them too.

Notwithstanding the "hard times" this year, we have had the best year's business in the history of our publications. This shows that they are looked upon as a necessity, not as a luxury. Some other desirable things may have to be done without; but these, no! We hope, year by year, to make them more and more of a necessity, by fitting them closer and closer to the needs of our Sabbath Schools and homes. We have just one request to make. It is a simple one,

and direct. If there is anything you would like to see in any of our publications, which it does not contain; or if there is anything in any of them which you think could be bettered, *let us know*.

The Power of Simplicity

By Rev. Professor A. R. Gordon, Litt.D.

The young teacher is often discouraged by his first experience of Sabbath School work. He has devoted time and pains to master the lesson, and done his best to put his thoughts into simple, persuasive language. Yet he feels there is something still lacking—that indefinable quality of complete spiritual sympathy which really reaches the heart. For simplicity is no mere form of words. It is essentially a principle of character. To touch and win the hearts of the children, the teacher must have the childlike mind, which thinks and feels and loves "as a little child".

We recognise the truth of this. Yet many of us feel a false shame about simplicity. It seems like returning to the childish things we should long since have left behind. Even if it win us the hearts of the children, is it not bartering away our manhood? Nay: true simplicity of character is the greatest power the grown man or woman can acquire. Has not the Lord Himself taught us that "unless we be converted, and become as little children", simple-hearted, teachable, trustful and true, "we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven"? And that which is so profitable for righteousness is profitable for all else. Simplicity is the key to all deep knowledge. The wise man is he who has sat humbly and reverently at the feet of