

Teacher Training Examination

tation. We find the Bible to be in part a poetic book, especially the Old Testament. It was once popularly supposed that the Psalms were the only poetry in the Holy Scriptures, but it is now believed that a great part of the Old Testament at least chimes with it as the river chimes to the sky. Some would hold that Ruth and Esther and Jonah and Daniel are prose poems. But even apart from these, much else is definitely in poetic form. That poetic form, with its peculiar lines and verses and parallelism, may differ from the modern dress, but noble poetry it is nevertheless. We have, first of all, such scattered lyrics as "The Song of the Well," and "The Song of Deborah," relics of an ancient hymnody that shook the tents of Israel. Then again, much of prophecy is finest poetry. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others wrote, now in prose, and now in poetry. The prophetic writings, as a rule, are tinged with fire, like evening clouds. Where can we find a rarer gem than in Nahum 1:3, "The Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet." That is worth saying to ourselves once a day for a year. Then the Psalms, and the Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes, are confessedly poetry altogether. What can excel Psalm 18 in general, and verse 11 in particular? "His pavilion round about Him were dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies." A thought like that should round out any brow. And the Bible is gemmed with the like of these.

So we who teach the Word, must have a measure of the poetic faculty. We must have that within us which shall give us an escape from wooden literalism. The Bible is partly lost to prosaic folk.

Rev. J. C. Robertson
Teacher Training Examination
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

The Annual Examination in the General Assembly's Teacher Training Course will be held on Saturday, May 5th, 1906; or on Friday evening, May 4th, wherever this may be more convenient.

The list of subjects for examination is as follows:—

SCRIPTURE—Handbook No. 1, The Books of the Old Testament. Handbook No. 2, The Life and Times of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DOCTRINE—Handbook No. 3:—A Summary of Christian Doctrine, Chs. I.-VIII. Same Handbook, Chs. IX.-XV.

ART OF TEACHING—Handbook No. 4, From One to Twenty-One. Handbook No. 5, Sabbath School Methods.

There are, therefore, *six separate papers* in the complete course, and any candidate may take any, or all, of these at this Examination.*

Those who wish to take any part, or parts, of the examination should give their names to their minister, Sabbath School superintendent, or some other responsible person who is willing to preside at the examination. Such Presiding Examiners are requested to report at once to the General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Rev. J. C. Robertson, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, giving the number of candidates who have made application, and *being very careful to specify exactly the subject, or subjects, which each candidate proposes to take.*

The results in the three previous examinations have been encouraging, both as to the number of candidates, and more especially in the general excellence of the work done. Not a few obtained over 90 per cent of the total marks given, and several papers were ranked as perfect. This year a very much larger number than ever before have been studying the course, and it is earnestly hoped that all these will take advantage of this opportunity to fix permanently in their minds the results of their study, by taking the prescribed examination, and at the same time obtain recognition of the work they have done, by securing a Certificate for each subject passed. The Diploma is granted when certificates in each of the six subjects of the course have been obtained.

*SPECIAL FOR 1905-6 ONLY.—(a) In the Department of the Art of Teaching, a special examination will be provided on the second part (chapters VIII.-XIII. inclusive) of Professor Murray's and Dr. Tracy's Handbooks, for those who passed in the first parts of these books in 1904-05, and who are completing the work of this Department this year.

(b) Those who have already passed one examination in the Department of Doctrine, may complete the work of this Department by examination in either part of Professor Kilpatrick's Handbook.