

The Sunday School.

COMMITTEE: James Lediard, Geo. Fowler, Miss L. Pitcher.

There is a number of schools which have done nothing for Home Missions yet. Is your school one? If so, why? It is not too late. Let the Board hear from you. We need your help in the work of Home Missions.

I am expecting a number of valuable short articles from preachers and Sunday-school workers for this department. Don't fail to read them when they appear. They will cover the whole field of Sunday-school work.

Our "At Home" in Owen Sound was sufficiently successful to warrant a repetition at some future date not far off. Our lady teachers invited all the mothers of the Sunday-school children, and a pleasant evening was spent. A good programme was carried out. Refreshments were enjoyed, and the mothers interested in the Sunday-school. As our children are largely outside the congregation, you will see the value of endeavoring to come into touch with the parents. Try it in your school.

Who entered the promised land? Did any one besides Caleb and Joshua? Did Eleazar? Did the whole tribe of Levi? I clip the following on the subject from the *Sunday School Times*. The question was discussed in that paper twelve years ago, but has come up again in this lesson:

Some years ago, when the current Sunday-school lessons were being taken from the Book of Joshua, the writer took occasion (in Notes on Open Letters) to call the attention of the *Sunday School Times* to the very prevalent error concerning Caleb and Joshua, often stated thus: "Caleb and Joshua were the only persons of the children of Israel who left Egypt that were permitted to enter the land of Canaan." As the mistake again appears, in a modified form, in the comments upon the lesson for September 8, it seems not inopportune to review the statements then made. In Numbers i. 1-3, we find that God commanded Moses and Aaron to number the children of Israel, "every male, . . . from twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel." This was at Mt. Sinai, the second month of the second year after leaving Egypt. In the successive divisions of the chapter (vs. 21, 23, 45, etc.) we are told the number in each tribe, always with the specification that the number referred to those "that were able to go forth to war"—that is, between the ages of twenty and fifty. In the forty-seventh verse we are distinctly told that the Levites "were not numbered among them;" but in Num-

bers iii. 14, 15, we find that the males of the Levites were numbered "from a month old and upward." This was when they were taken in exchange for the firstborn of Israel. In Numbers iv. 1-3, we find them numbered for tabernacle service—all between the ages of thirty and fifty; and in the successive divisions of the chapter (vs. 23, 30, 34, etc.) we find these particulars reiterated. In Numbers xiv. 29, 30, God says: "Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, surely ye shall not come into the land"—save Caleb and Joshua. In Numbers xxvi. 1-4, we find that Moses and Eleazar numbered the men of war, and (vs. 63, 65) "that there was not left a man of them," save Caleb and Joshua. In Numbers xxxii. 11, 12, when Moses was warning the children of Reuben and Gad not to renew the sin of the ten spies, he refers to those who did in the wilderness under the phrase "none of the men that came up out of Egypt," but the added words, "from twenty years old and upward," shows that only the men of war are meant. Not the slightest doubt of this is left by Deuteronomy ii. 14-16, where Moses says, "When all the men of war were consumed and dead from among the people . . . the Lord spake unto me, saying, Thou art this day to pass over Ar," although, did Deuteronomy i. 3: ("not one of these men of this evil generation") stand alone, we might think differently. Is it not plain, then, that many of the priests and Levites who left Egypt, besides Eleazar, may have entered Canaan? Many women, perhaps? Many men who were just under twenty when the host was numbered at the foot of Sinai?

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