

JULY 14, 1904

THE DURHAM REVIEW

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Bald? Scalp shiny and thin?
Then it's probably too late.
You neglected dandruff. If
you had only taken our ad-
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Hair Vigor

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All druggists.

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S. SCOTT.

HOPEVILLE.

Mr. Buchanan, a former Presbyterian Student in Proton and who was away in the missionary fields, returned to see his old friends here. He made a short stay as his particular friends, Mr. and Mrs. F. McArthur, had left for a trip up the Lakes.

The Presbyterian Sunday School had a picnic here on Friday 8th and was fairly well attended. Rev. Mr. Campbell, of Dromore, was present. He and Mr. Lee gave addresses with some local talent. Some little dissatisfaction exists on account of the young men allowing a stand to sell drinks, soft of course, but some of our people think that even the look of bottles and glasses is not becoming to a Sunday School picnic.

On Sunday afternoon some of our people went to Cedarville to hear the Rev. Mr. Lee's sermon to the Oren Lodge there.

Mr. I. W. McArdle was in our village on Sunday 10th.

Mr. George McLesch returned here last week.

Miss Edith Glenister returned after two weeks in Toronto and her cousin, Miss Glenister, with her.

Mr. Geo. Scott, Sr., of Mt. Forest, has moved in our village.

NORMAL CLASS IN OUR S. SCHOOLS.

An address given by R. Benwick, Sr., Dromore at the Annual Township Convention of S. S. Teachers, held in Amos Church June 28, 1904.

Owing to other demands on our time we gave only an all-at-once last week of this valuable paper. Though addressed to teachers, there is in it suggestions to parents and guardians so valuable as to justify giving it in full. Ed.]

To teach at all is a grave responsibility but to teach the Bible to childhood and youth in the formative period of their life is a sacred vocation and not to be lightly undertaken. The Apostle Paul tells us that God set some in the church to guide and direct it—I apostles—2nd prophets, 3rd teachers, after these miracles. Where do we find them now?—the order of apostles has passed away, the prophets are merged into our pastorate, the teachers we still have with us and rank next to the pastors. Thus we see the importance of the position and the necessity of a thorough equipment of our teachers for this work.

There are two functions discharged by living beings and by every plant: 1st the struggle for existence or its nutrition; 2nd, the struggle for life of others or its reproduction. All Christian life activity must be classed under these two heads. We can give a shrewd guess under what master a person may have been taught, by the way he makes his statements. We can readily detect the reproduction of the master in their work. Now would it be fair to estimate the work of our S. S. by the young people who pass out from them in the activities of life? Would it be fair to consider them a reproduction of the various teachers they may pass under following numbers of years? If so, have they a good general knowledge of the Scripture? A good understanding of the fundamental doctrines of religion? Has their Christian character been developed? A more important object than even teaching. Teaching gives knowledge but training gives character. A Bible doctrine may be taught in an hour but the working of it out may take years. Knowledge is a good thing, but after all it is only a preparatory course. It is not what we know, but what we do, that counts and wins the approbation of our blessed Master. Knowledge is not religion—religion is life or it is nothing.

Have our young people been prepared to meet the attracting competition of the world and stand firm? Warned against the inborn passions of the flesh? Trained to value good habits? To have self-respect? Trained to have reverence for all that is holy? Sabbath, God's House, God's Word? Reverence is but another name for religion. Hence S. S. teachers by virtue of their office are, or should be, religious trainers.

No doubt the task is a hard and delicate one, the time at their disposal is short—one hour to set over against all the week—in contact with careless parents, Godless homes, bad books and many other things. By neglect in the home the work in the S. S. has greatly increased; the Bible has passed from the secular to the S. S. In view of these facts our S. S. teachers need thorough training for the work that is committed to them. This is an age of advancement in all secular attainments. In all departments of life a higher efficiency is required. If our S. Schools are to keep the pace we must increase our energies or we are going to fall behind and our influence be much weaker.

I believe that much can be done by properly directed influence in our S. Schools when we consider the number that are engaged in this work even in this small Dominion of ours. Their opportunity is greater than that of any other organization. They have the young under their influence during their most plastic period in life, easy to teach and much easier to mould and train into good habits than it is in adults. So the necessity is clear to us and demands that the highest efficiency possible be secured for this work. The welfare of our churches demands that both preachers and teachers be most thoroughly equipped and trained.

The Bible deserves it; teachers of no other text book are so little trained in its use. Teaching is an art that is, and can be learned and I believe in the near future, a course of this training will be required of all S. School teachers before they are eligible for the position.

To learn how to teach is a necessity. It is recognized as a Science and an Art resting on certain well defined principles which enter into every step of success-teaching, an art to be learned like any other art by observation, study and practice. To know the Bible and principles of teaching are two things a teacher necessarily must know to expect any degree of success.

Also to know what to teach is of vital importance, much more so than to know how. This is true of any book, but much more so of the Bible, the one book of Divine truth. It is vital because you will find men everywhere who are wresting the scriptures from their Divine intent; they are made to bolster up every heresy by those who abuse its spirit and meaning; so it is the duty of teachers to find out and teach only what the Bible means to be taught; to study systematically the Bible as a whole, to fix its truths, historical and doctrinal, in their right relation and order, and attain such general knowledge as would enable them to rightly comprehend and teach it to others.

Perhaps a good plan would be for each church as a denomination, having its own need in view, to prepare a course of its own and by doing so unify and stimulate the training within its own bounds. No doubt something could be done in the S. S. but whether it could be carried out to a practical issue is doubtful.

I do not know what other denominations have done in this respect but we as Presbyterians have taken steps to relieve the pressing necessity. Our S. S. Committee, who were appointed by the General Assembly, have prepared a course of lessons expressly for teacher training called the "Teachers Training Course" based on a term of Study for two years in three subjects "Scripture," "Doctrine" and "Art of Teaching," with written exams at end of each term. This course is being fairly well taken up so far and I believe in the future much more when it becomes more fully known and its purpose understood.

I am happy to say that we have a good class in Amos. We studied all last winter and wrote our exams on 7th of May last; we do not know what the results are as yet but we hope to have a good pass for all and "perhaps" honors

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