

**THE ADULT
WORKER
AND HIS WORK**

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The adult worker and his work by Wade Crawford Barclay

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WADE CRAWFORD BARCLAY

**THE ADULT
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1915
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THE WORKER AND HIS WORK SERIES

A CORRESPONDENCE STUDY COURSE FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS

THE ADULT WORKER AND HIS WORK

By

✓
WADE CRAWFORD BARCLAY

Educational Director of the Board of Sunday Schools

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INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER
THE GRADED SUNDAY-SCHOOL

"Is it not worth while to teach the Bible as well as we teach arithmetic and geography, to give as good instruction in the things of the soul and the life to come as in those of the counting house and commerce?"—*Burton and Mathews.*

"The new system is the result of developments that have been in process for many years in the educational world. The principles of the new education have been recognized and followed in the public schools for a good while; their recognition in the Sunday-school has come tardily, but can not be any longer postponed. It is not worth while to quarrel with a necessity."—*J. T. McFarland.*

"The Bible has something of that infinite variety that meets us in nature. It is pre eminently a Book created out of human life. It reflects everywhere this life, and its ceaseless change, its exhaustless variety of experience, its deep under-tones of mystery and sorrow, the tragedies and sins and toils of man, the play and interplay of souls, the sweep of empires, the rise and growth and fall of nations. Such a Book can not be measured off and divided by hard-and-fast rules into uniform lessons, without two results: first, a faulty and forced interpretation of its selected passages; and second, a superficial and unworthy conception of the Book as a whole."—*Pascal Harrower.*

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

THE GRADED SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

I. Standard of Organization

1. **The Purpose of Organization.** Organization is simply a means to an end. Given a certain situation, the Sunday-school should adopt such form of organization as will best enable it to adapt itself to that situation and to accomplish the ends for which it exists. If the school meets in a little country school-house, has one teacher, one class, and an enrollment of fifteen persons, it will not be aided in doing its work by adopting the complicated organization demanded by the city school of a thousand members. But even the smallest and weakest frontier school may, in a simple organization suited to its situation and its needs, recognize the fundamental principles which make its big brother of the highest educational and religious efficiency. Conditions vary so widely in different schools that it is impossible to suggest a form of organization suited to all. Each school will do best by acquainting itself thoroughly with the highest ideals in Sunday-school work; then, having adopted a working plan suited to its situation, it may gradually advance toward the ideal.

In adopting a form of organization and in planning the work, the teaching function of the school should always be kept in the forefront. It must ever be remembered that the Sunday-school exists as "the teaching agency of the Church, obeying the Master's command, 'Go, teach.'"

2. **The Ideal Standard.** So far as possible, every Sunday-school should attain to the following ideal of organization:

- (1) The Sunday-school fully graded. (For complete statement on graded organization see pp. 13, 14.)
- (2) A Cradle Roll.
- (3) A Home Department.
- (4) A Teacher-Training Department.
- (5) Organized Adult Classes.
- (6) A Sunday-school Missionary Organization.
- (7) A Sunday-school Temperance Organization.
- (8) Regular meeting of the Sunday-school Board.

3. **Officers Necessary to Realize this Ideal.** We suggest as advisable, in order to realize this ideal of organization and all that it implies, to have at least the following officers: Superintendent; an Assistant Superintendent, who shall be Director of Graded Instruction; a second Assistant Superintendent, who shall be Director of Teacher-Training; in large schools, Superintendents of various departments, as Superintendent of the Primary Department, Superintendent of the Junior Department, etc.; Superintendent of the Home Department; Superintendent of the Cradle Roll; Secretary; an Assistant Secretary, who shall be Secretary of Enrollment and Classification; Treasurer; Organist; Chorister; one or more Librarians; Ushers; and various Committees, of which one should be the Quarterly Conference Committee on Sunday-schools required by the Discipline, and another a Committee on Sunday-school Evangelism.

4. **The Relation of the Pastor to the Sunday-school.** Since the Sunday-school is integrally a part of the Church, the pastor is as truly pastor of the Sunday-school as of the Church itself. Methodist Episcopal Church polity recognizes this and makes the pastor the executive head of the Sunday-school, and clearly defines his prerogatives as such. This relation should be cordially recognized by officers and schools, and every facility afforded the pastor to exercise a helpful and fruitful ministry in that department of the Church which offers him his largest spiritual opportunity.