

**EPHRAIM HOLDING'S  
HOMELY  
HINTS TO SUNDAY  
SCHOOL TEACHERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649575428

Ephraim Holding's Homely Hints to Sunday School Teachers by Old Humphrey

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Cover @ 2017

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**OLD HUMPHREY**

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HOMELY HINTS

TO

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

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"IF A SMALL SEED WILL PRODUCE A LARGE TREE, A SINGLE  
FEATHER TURN A SCALE, AND A MEAN SPARK KINDLE  
A CONFLAGRATION, WHY SHOULD I FEAR THAT AN  
OLD MAN'S WORDS, COMING WARM FROM HIS  
HEART, WILL BE ALTOGETHER  
WORTHLESS?"

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LONDON:  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION,  
60, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1843.



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**J. Tenlon, Printer, 57, Chesapeake.**

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EPHRAIM HOLDING'S  
HOMELY HINTS.

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I.

HOW ARE YOU GOING ABOUT IT?

AND have I lived in the world till my hairs are grey, without picking up a thought that may be useful to a Sunday school teacher? Surely not. Have I nothing to say that will lighten his spirit, encourage his heart, strengthen his hand, quicken his foot, or increase his zeal in the enterprize he has undertaken? Oh, yes, I hope so! If a small seed will produce a large tree, a single feather turn a scale, and a mere spark kindle a conflagration, why should I fear that an old man's words, coming warm from his heart, will be altogether worthless?

Putting it down as an axiom, as I do, that no

well-meant endeavor to be useful, prudently and zealously persevered in, is ever made altogether in vain, I feel a confidence which is as a cordial to me. Think not, because time has sprinkled a little snow on my head, that I am weak-minded and peevish; but rather give me credit for energy and good temper, as well as for sincerity and uprightness of intention. Kindly feelings, one towards another, are of great value; try then to think as favorably of me as I think of you:—

Though his hair may be scattered and grey,  
And the strength of his manhood depart;  
Though the shadows of thought o'er his temples may stray,  
Yet affection, and zeal, as he wends on his way,  
May be strong in an old man's heart.

Experience, among many other things, has told and taught me this, that in pursuance of the most laudable objects, the mind stands in need of an occasional stimulus; the affections of the heart require to be excited and called forth. A striking example, a well-timed reproof, a word of encouragement and christian counsel, often impart to us an increased zeal, a doubled diligence, and a new principle of action.

If experience has told me this, most likely it has taught you something of the same kind, young as some of you are in comparison of the

years I have numbered. There have been times, perhaps, when going to and attending your classes, you have felt heavy, uninterested, out of spirits, disappointed, and ready to say, "What is the use of my being a Sunday school teacher?" Now it is just in such moments as these that I want to step in with my humble hints. When you feel strong; when your school prospers, and your scholars are grateful; when you are listening to some eloquent speech, or reading some talented essay, wherein Sunday school teachers are spoken well of; when the sun shines on your heads and in your hearts, I will trust you for going on perseveringly, and very cheerfully leave you to yourselves; but in the dull, dark, dabbling day, and in the hour of disappointment and despondency, as I said before, willingly would I become your companion, and, in a kindly spirit, offer a few of my homely observations.

There is, I believe, a general impression in society, that youth and age cannot pleasantly keep each other company. Now this appears to me to be a reflection on them both. It seems to say, that young people in their buoyant spirits forget what is due to the more sober and quiet habits of age, and that old people are not sufficiently considerate and forbearing towards their