

**THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL TEACHER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649460472

The Sunday School Teacher by H. M. Hamill

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BY

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THIRTEENTH THOUSAND.

CHICAGO; NEW YORK; TORONTO:
FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY,
LONDON AND EDINBURG.
MCMIII

INTRODUCTORY.

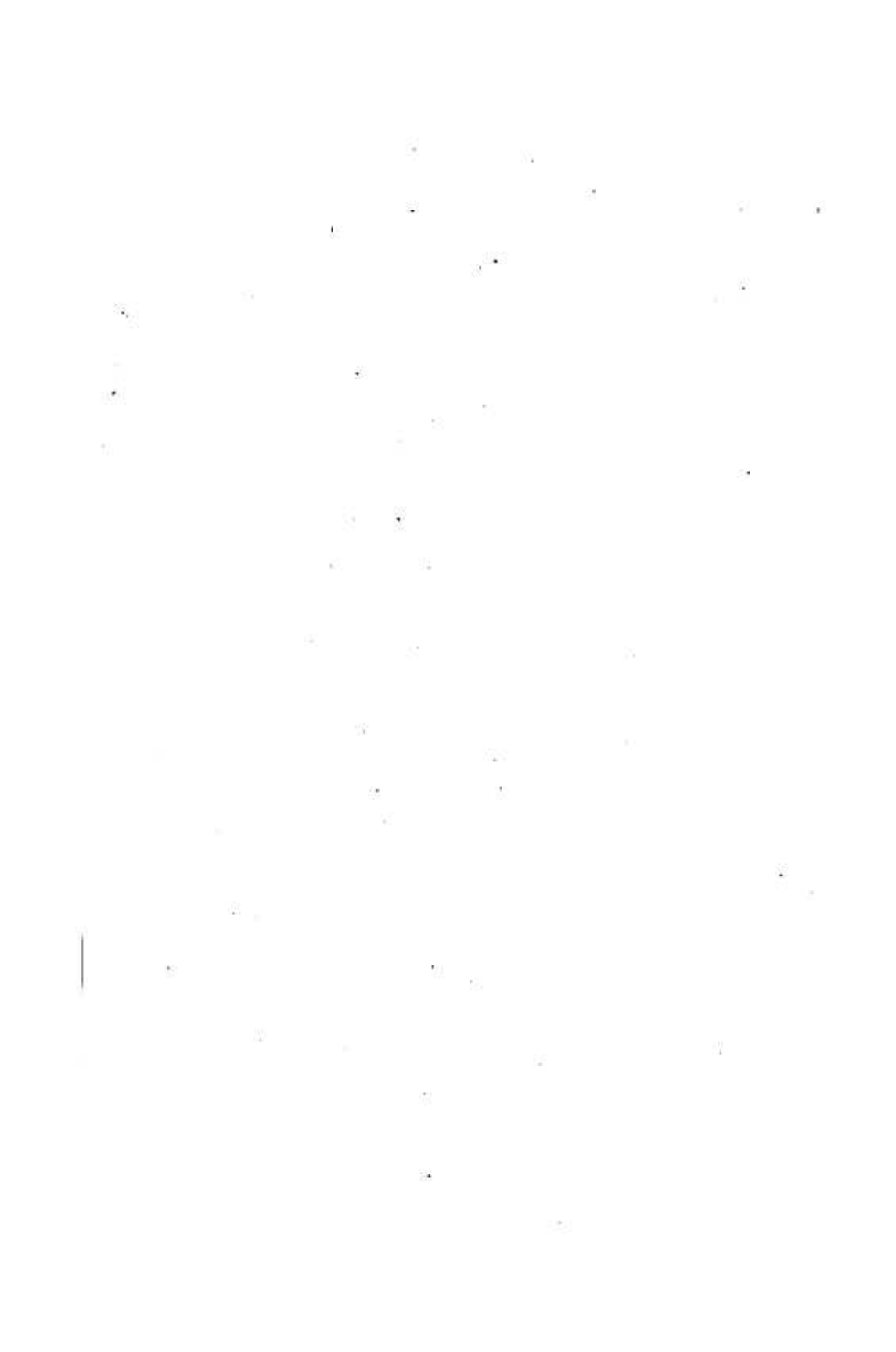
THE purpose of this book is not strictly pedagogical, but relates rather to the practical work of the Sunday school teacher. Severely trained in the vocation of the secular teacher, afterwards called for many years to the work of a Sunday school specialist, the writer has noted that most of our Sunday school teachers have little time or inclination for a study of the science of teaching. As busy week day workers in home and office, store and farm, their limitations are such that they cannot hope to compete in pedagogic equipment with those whose life work is to teach. Nor should it be expected of them, in view of the wide differences between the secular and the Sunday school teacher. What the latter needs and covets is the art rather than the science of teaching. This need has been kept steadily in mind in the preparation of this little book, which is the outgrowth of fellowship with hosts of Sunday school teachers whose sincere ambition is to teach skillfully the Holy Scriptures. That it may prove helpful to these faithful servants of the Church is my earnest prayer.

H. M. HAMILL.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December 1, 1901.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.

THE Sunday school teacher, by warrant of the Scriptures or in the order of Providence, is second only to the preacher. His commission is directly from God, and his place of usefulness is becoming more and more recognized by the Church. "God hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles," etc. This declaration of Paul is worthy of the modern teacher's study. The ancient order of "apostles" has passed away. The "prophets" are merged into pastors. The teacher in the pew is next to the man in the pulpit; and the working of miracles takes lower rank than the teaching of a Sunday school class. To teach at all is a work of grave responsibility; but to teach the Bible to childhood and youth, in the one formative period of life, is a peculiarly sacred vocation. Our Lord is fittingly called "the Great Teacher;" and the Gospels record significantly how he, and the apostles who succeeded him, "went about teaching and preaching." The skilled Sunday school teacher, trained intellectually and spiritually for his great work, is the immi-

ment need of the home, the Church, and the State. The "signs of the times," if thoughtfully interpreted, abundantly confirm this statement. By the neglect of the home, the demands upon the Sunday school teacher have multiplied. The Bible has passed from the secular to the Sunday school; and the State, so dependent for its prosperity upon the inculcation of Bible precepts, must look to the Sunday school alone for religious instruction of its youth. The Church, slow at first to realize its educational and evangelistic opportunity, has come at last to recognize in the Sunday school teacher its most profitable servant. In the light of these multiplying demands the Sunday school teacher must do his work. If he heed the calls to a larger equipment for the service committed to him, the blessing of God and his Church will be upon him in greater power than ever in his past. But if he refuse or neglect, "his office let another take." The Church of the next generation will see to it that its teachers are workmen of whom "it needeth not to be ashamed."

I. THE TEACHER'S WORK.

I. AS A CHRISTIAN.

THE teacher who is not a Christian in deed and in truth discredits the sacred place he holds, and "daubs with untempered mortar." His first duty is to get right with God—that is, if he intends to continue teaching; if not, there is only one right course, he should resign. But there are Christians and Christians, and the marks of the true Christian teacher should be defined.

1. He should have a clear and definite *experience*. Out of the heart the mouth speaketh. Like begets like in spiritual as in other things, and the Sunday school teacher who is himself untaught of God cannot efficiently teach his class the way of life. Such is the free grace of God, and so plain are the teachings of his Word, that any teacher reading these lines, and knowing that his life is not right, may, in one short hour, if he is sincere in his desire, get right before God, the Church, and his class. Educational fitness comes slowly; not so, however, is