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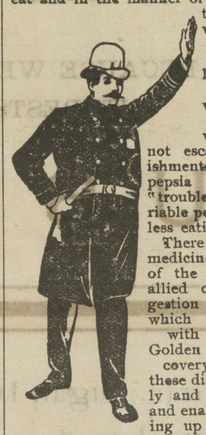
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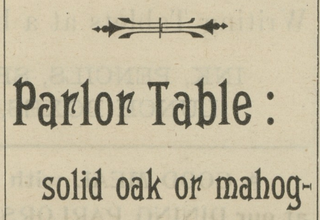
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A. LEVINE, MANAGER.
Look out for adv. next week.

TRY A BOX OF "CORN KING." Sold by all drug stores, ☞Sure cure for Corns and Bunions.

KENT'S SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

How to Increase Attendance as Viewed by a Visitor—Rock Hall Leads—Resorts Draw the Young.

Editors of KENT NEWS:

Being interested in Sunday Schools and in anything which elevates our young people, I was anxious to learn what was being done in the Sunday Schools of our county, especially during the warm period through which we have just passed. From the reports which have reached me I find general complaints of attendance and lack of interest. Some attribute it to failure of teachers to prepare lesson in order to excite interest in pupil. Others complain that the attraction of the different resorts draw them from the Sunday Schools.

The most discouraging report comes from our county seat, which reported 16 pupils on one Sunday and 25 the next. Worton, Lynchs, Betterton, Kennedyville, Fairlee and Bond report only tolerable; Still Pond and Millington furnish good reports. Rock Hall gives the best. They report more than 300 on roll and with one exception during the heated spell not less than 140 in attendance. Still Pond being near Betterton and Rock Hall to Tolchester, their pupils must either attend both school and resort or else find more attractions at school. Still Pond holds its session in the morning, Rock Hall in the afternoon. Young people prefer the afternoon for pleasure. Then if Rock Hall keeps up her attendance, holds her young people, she must have some method of doing it.

Being personally acquainted with the Superintendent of Rock Hall, I do not think he will object to me taking the liberty of informing your readers his methods of conducting a Sunday School, and if he is successful in keeping up the attendance will it not be an incentive to other Superintendents to adopt similar means?

In the first place he exacts perfect order and obtains it in the simplest manner. At the opening he calls attention to some object or topic and requests each to concentrate their mind upon it for about 5 seconds. Immediately all talk ceases. You can hear the tick of a clock. He believes in the power of concentration. This is not done every Sunday nor do we know what he is going to do until it is done, no sameness, no general method yet something to suit the time and circumstances. Then responsive reading led by some one designated by Superintendent call upon pupils to lead. The Superintendent says "his duty is to plan, the pupils to execute." Prayer is next in order, he seldom leads but calls upon teacher or officer, yet insists upon a short fervent prayer concluding with Lord's Prayer, joined by school. Blackboard exercise, this is always conducted by Superintendent, sometimes a topical outline of lesson, chalk talk, lesson figure with lesson story. This occupies 10 minutes. From the board he asks individual opinions of some point brought out by this introductory.

In this, pupil, officer, teacher and visitor are called upon. Yet he does not allow one to criticise the opinion of another. This excercise resembles a testimonial service and often produces a deep spiritual feeling. Then says the Superintendent "the teacher is in a proper condition to teach the lesson." This exercise dissipates that feeling of restraint and makes both teacherand pupil approachable.

These exercises are not continued so as to tire. I think 20 minutes would cover the entire service. Then from 20 to 30 minutes is occupied in class work, during which time the Superintendent is arranging classes, bidding visitors welcome and requesting them to take a seat in some class, and making a general supervision of entire school; never seated and not long in one place. Next is review, this is done by catechizing, calling upon pupil to explain as his teacher explained to him. He varies this exercise according to appearances. if the school appears restless he makes it short but never closes abruptly. Each exercise is interspersed with singing. Sometimes by pupil leading and school joining only in on the chorus. Every pupil has some work to do, no drones, all leaders and followers. At the close the Secretary reports proceedings: Number of seniors, juniors, primary, infants and visitors present, the amount of collection and the class contributing the greatest amount. This class receives the banner the following Sunday. The collections average about $3 which enables the Superintendent to meet all expenses.

The Infant Department occupies the annex under Mrs. Apsley's supervision, numbers 60, from 3 to 7 years. Their exercises are independent of the general school, having their own opening and closing exercises. If the weather is not severe they remain for general exercises with school, care is taken not to weary them. Their Superintendent is a wide awake lady and is the right one in the right place.

The school uses the Senior, Junior, Intermediate beginners leaves and the Bible in recitations, results are viz., attention good, attendance and a thorough ventilation of the lesson. Now the success of this school is not attributed solely to Superintendent, but to each individual. That goes to make a part of this school. Officers and teachers make every effort to assist the Superintendent and make the school attractive and carry out every plan suggested by him. There are no claims, no factions, but a unity and as a visitor I enjoy and learn something every time it is my privilege to attend their sessions. My readers must infer that Bible study must be done by its teachers. In looking over the Superintendent's helps I see an Oxford Bible, Benson's, Clark and Wheedon's Commentaries, Sunday School Times, illustrative notes and periodicals of almost every denomination. He is a constant reader, digests it and gives the school the benefit of his researches. His wife says "he married books, not me."

Now Messrs. Editors there are many things I could speak of concerning this school. I believe it to be the Banner School, of our County and its influence must result in good, not only to pupils but to the community in which it exists. I believe there is no higher, nobler, work than that of teaching the young, it has its difficulties, no doubt it it is often discourageing, but future generations receive the results and the workers an everlasting reward. And if those schools whose sessions seem to be a drag, will adopt ssme of these methods they will find that lethargy and inattentiveness will disappear and the school will put on new life, and whether there be pleasure resorts adjacent or distant they will find no fault in attendance. Bear this in mind "young people will seek that which is most attractive," then if you want them try to make your school superior to these attractions by obliterating that feeling of restraint and formality which acts as a cancer in our Public Institutions.

VISITOR.

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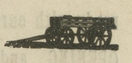
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