

P.N.E.U. METHODS OF TEACHING SCRIPTURE.

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To begin with, Scripture with us is not an isolated subject—the only ‘public recognition of God’ in the school curriculum. We believe that in that painting in Florence, which Miss Mason ventures to describe as the Great Recognition, is shewn the true educational gospel—that *all* knowledge is part of Holy Wisdom and the gift of God’s spirit. So we try to inculcate a spirit of reverence and wonder in all studies, while putting first things first and beginning every morning with a scripture lesson in the place of honour. The actual teaching

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method is as in other subjects that the pupil should have the *actual* words of the text either read to him or by him and then narrate them back to the teacher—making the passage his by one hearing or seeing. The syllabus followed will take a child—say from 7 to 17—right through the Bible in a reasoned order. We begin in the age of faith with the story of the beginning—using Dr. Paterson Smyth’s books as explanatory guides to the teacher who will give the necessary comment either upon the reading or after the narration as seems most helpful. The child goes on from origins to the great ‘fathers,’ the patriarchs, on through the story of Moses to the historical relationship of prophets and kings and actually reads the prophets in their proper setting when old enough to follow their ‘inspired comment’—that is in the Upper Classes of the School. For the New Testament work the child just reads the Synoptic Gospels: then, when older, the Synoptic Gospels, and St. John, companioned by Miss Mason’s own commentary in Verse, the ‘Saviour of the World’ which in a beautifully impersonal form shows the ideas which should arise in the mind of every humble and loyal disciple.

Then by the time the school career has well advanced the child will have read the epistles and a great many other optional books given as Sunday Reading—church teaching, the history of the Prayer Book, and of the Great Saints—Stories of the lands from which the great book came or of the civilizing work of Christianity in all ages. Eventually the child should be ready for the world, taught to ‘search the scriptures’ with a conception of their growth and sequence, realising that he must add his share before the day can dawn when ‘The Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.’”