

headquarters of our educational work. The training of the ministry is of great importance to the Church, and while the income of the society yearly indicates a growing interest in this work—over which we greatly rejoice—we continue to solicit your liberal support both to the Educational Society, and to the Endowment and Building Funds.

The good work being done in our Sabbath Schools from year to year is very pleasing. We have 25,889 scholars in the schools of this Conference, and last year 1,306 are reported as having been converted, while 816 are in catechumen classes. The handsome amount of \$14,896 was expended for the maintenance of these schools, which is a most satisfactory showing. The Sabbath School is the recruiting ground of the Church, and in this portion of our country we cannot longer look to emigration as the field from which to gather, but must rear our youth within the pale of our own Church for God, and the work committed to us. We deplore the absence of the catechism in so many Sabbath Schools and homes, and most respectfully urge that it be more universally taught. We would also impress upon all parents the duty of dedicating their infants to God in the sacrament of baptism, and then of uninterruptedly training them "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The large army of teachers and workers in our schools, who unselfishly spend time and money, for the spiritual nourishment of the youth, have our best thanks, and our continued prayers and support.

The Epworth League has grown wonderfully; we have now reported sixty-seven Leagues with a membership of 2,818. This is an important feature of our work, and an agency of much promise and power. Let all our young people be taught to "Look up, and Lift up." We strongly recommend that the Sabbath School and Epworth League be utilized as a medium for imparting instruction in temperance, and the prohibition of the liquor traffic; and also abstinence from the use of tobacco in every form.

We do not by any means despair of the ultimate success of the temperance movement in our land. We stand in the same attitude, and are emphatically in favor of the total prohibition of the sale and manufacture of intoxicants. We reiterate the statement made last year, that "one of the greatest needs of the temperance cause to-day, is a compact and thorough organization of the friends of prohibition." We also need to prove ourselves really true to the principles we advocate, and throwing off all allegiance to political party, unfailingly stand up and out for the cause. Be consistent. Never sign a petition to license any person to sell; never vote for a known friend of the liquor party, nor in any way bring reproach on our religion by truckling to rum or the rum party. "Be firm, be vigilant." "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

We trust you will continue your hearty support to our excellent church publications, by taking into your homes the *Christian Guardian*, and *Methodist Magazine*; and into your Sunday Schools, Epworth Leagues and Mission Circles, *Onward*, *The Outlook*, *Pleasant Hours* and *Sunbeam*, together with literature for the school and home, published and sold at our Book Room in Toronto.

The roll call of our Conference has saddened us, for some of our honored and beloved brethren in the ministry did not answer to their names. We