

to the Annual Conferences for their adoption.

We hope that at the approaching District Meetings and Conferences this subject will receive full consideration, and that the recommendations of the General Conference will be carried into effect. There are great possibilities of good in the suggested Associations. They would become centres of influence and power, which would carry life and energy into the weaker and more dependent parts of our work. The leading Associations would probably be situated in the larger towns and cities of the respective Conferences—as London, Hamilton, Guelph, Toronto, Belleville, Montreal, St. John, Halifax, etc.—where there are already thoroughly organized Sunday-schools and efficient bands of workers. Such an organization as suggested would enable them to do Sunday-school missionary work among less favourably situated neighbourhoods—planting schools in the outskirts of the cities and in their neglected parts and adjoining villages, and encouraging and helping schools that need help. The visit of a deputation of “live” Sunday-school workers to a weak or inefficient school, the holding of a teachers’ institute and exhibition of improved methods of Sunday-school work, would do an incalculable amount of good. We understand that the Montreal Sunday-school Association has already rendered very valuable services of this sort. There is an ample field for such in the French villages in the vicinity of Montreal, for example, where Methodism, and Protestantism as a whole, labour under great difficulties, and would derive great benefit from such help as the General Conference resolutions suggest.

In every city, in every town throughout the country, such work might be undertaken much more fully, systematically and efficiently than has yet been attempted. Each Conference might be covered with a network of these Associations, each stimulating and helping the others, and the strong especially helping

and encouraging the weak. Well-to-do schools, for instance, might, when replenishing their library shelves, distribute those books that they can spare to schools needing them. Much has been done in this way through the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. The present writer has had the pleasure of distributing gratuitously over 20,000 volumes to poor schools. But much more might be accomplished if the thing were systematically undertaken.

We venture to express the hope that the May District Meetings will take the matter up with vigour, and each form its own local Sunday-school Association where none now exists; and also appoint two of its most energetic Sunday-school workers—a minister and layman—as members of the more general Associations to be organized at the approaching Conferences. Under this plan each circuit, or each town where there is more than one school, should have its local Association for mutual help and counsel. A new *esprit de corps* and new energy, as a result, would animate our whole Sunday-school work; and in many places where there are now no schools they would be planted and fostered and sustained.

During the last Conference year there was an increase throughout the Connexion of 142 schools, 1,349 officers and teachers, and 10,785 scholars. But that rate of progress might be greatly increased. Our Church has already more Sunday-schools, more teachers and more scholars than all the other Protestant Churches in the Dominion taken together. But we conceive that its duty to the young people committed to its care is not accomplished while there is a single Methodist preaching appointment where there is not also an efficient Methodist Sunday-school. For the founding of schools in every place where none now exists, and for the helping of needy schools where they do exist, liberal assistance in books, papers and Sunday-school equipment will be given from the Sunday-school Aid and Extension