

The Teachers' Monthly.

Vol. II.

NOVEMBER, 1896.

No. 11.

OUR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The price of the *Teachers' Monthly* in future will be :—Single copies 50 cents per annum ; four or more to one address, 40 cents.

In return for this slight increase in the price we give thirty-two pages instead of twenty, and insert a handsome colored map. The present number has, in addition to this, fourteen pages of supplementary matter. This will be pleasant reading to all who wish the success of our own periodicals.

We do not ask you to read all the supplement—even honey palls upon the taste—but see what your neighbors have to say for us. The testimonials are grouped by synods for convenience of reference. You will notice that we have carefully avoided naming any other publications in use in our schools. We hope to make our helps so far superior to most, and so fully equal to the best, that every one of our Sabbath schools will take them exclusively.

We regret very much the delay in issuing the November number. We must ask the forbearance of our subscribers in the circumstances. As long as the editorial work is done mainly by one who has also a pastoral charge, it will be impossible to avoid being closely pressed for time occasionally. The preparation of the testimonials in the supplement, all of which had to be rewritten for the compositor; the preparation of a special appeal to wipe out our burden on the publishing fund of \$5,000 ; necessary absence from home in connection with the committee meeting ; additional work arising out of Children's Day ; and chiefly, the convener's duties as a pastor at the quarterly communion season, are the causes why this number is a week late. If our publications are to be continued, and no one will now say that they should cease, it will be absolutely necessary to place them in the hands of some one who is free from the charge of a congregation. As long as one has the "cure of souls" his duties in that regard must be paramount. Whatever happens to the *Monthly*, he must not neglect the spiritual claims of his

flock. This, or any other "outside" work must be secondary in importance to these. We trust our presbyteries will speak with no uncertain sound and fully warrant the Assembly in placing the work on an efficient basis financially and editorially.

It is the confident expectation of the committee that they will be able to announce to the Assembly at Winnipeg next year that not only does no debt rest upon them, but that the periodicals will yield a handsome working capital for the future. We shall then be warranted in congratulating the church in having a Sabbath school department, not only thoroughly organized, but also endowed with a permanent revenue sufficient to pay all the cost of editorial superintendence and general administration of its affairs. The following quotation from a circular recently issued will shew our grounds for expecting such success : "The total cost of printing and publishing (including mailing, &c.) the quantity necessary to supply our present subscribers, and furnish an abundance of samples, for one year is \$5,052.98. The revenue from the same, even if not one additional subscriber were obtained next January, would be \$5,291.10, leaving a balance of profit amounting to \$238.12. With nearly 19,000 teachers and over 158,000 scholars in our Sabbath schools, our subscription lists should be at least doubled at new year, and if so, the margin of profit would be \$3,000. These figures are reached by a very careful and detailed calculation in consultation with the printer. They will shew how utterly incorrect is the statement that our publications 'are losing money every year.' It is rarely that any periodicals achieve such a striking success in so short a time. Usually from four to five years are required to reach a paying basis." Should the Assembly make the appointment of an editor and general superintendent of S. S. work and authorize the removal of our headquarters to Toronto, our margin of profit will be at least twenty-five per cent. higher, owing to the lower tenders for printing