

persons known to be loyal to the International Union Lesson System, and to organized, co-operative, inter-denominational Sunday-school work."

### Criticism of Methods.

DR. HASSARD, of the *Pilgrim Teacher*, one of the veteran workers in this good cause, writes thus of the criticism of methods the International Lesson System has encountered:

"Occasionally that criticism had been quite severe. Other systems of lessons had been started with the thought of supplanting it. It was in the air that at St. Louis the International Course would be boldly attacked, and that the convention would be found to be divided. After the report of the Lesson Committee opportunity was given for a full expression of opinion. While on the part of one speaker there was frank criticism of the method pursued by the Lesson Committee, there was not a single voice defiantly raised against the system as a whole. The speaker referred to declared his loyalty to the system, while others spoke fervidly in praise of all that it had accomplished. The convention could hardly wait for the speakers to get through in order to give the International System its endorsement. The approval was overwhelming. The current was all running one way, a Niagara in strength. The result was a conviction in the mind of the writer that the desire for uniformity is still so strong that no other system of lessons can successfully compete with the International Series, even if it should be considerably better. Uniformity in study binds the Sunday-school workers of the different denominations together in a tie of brotherhood, which to them is very precious. They will resent any effort to break it. Call it sentiment, if you will, but it is a sentiment which is as resistless as an avalanche. It is one of the indications that mark the beginning of the fulfilment of the Saviour's prayer, that all His disciples may be one, even as He and the Father are one. By attempting to substitute something else for this uniformity of study no one can benefit the Sunday-school cause so much as he would injure it."

without destroying the great principle of one lesson for the schools throughout Christendom. Attempts will doubtless be made by sincere and honest men to introduce very great changes, but we believe the almost universal sentiment of Sunday-school workers is to maintain the integrity of the International and Inter-denominational System.

"We are not divided,  
All one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine  
One in charity."

### The Home Class Department.

BY J. J. MACLAREN, Q.C., LL.D.

THE Home Class Department is the latest addition to Sunday-school work, and one of the most promising aids to systematic Bible study. For its inception and development we are indebted, chiefly, to Dr. Duncan, the well-known secretary of the Chautauqua Assembly. It is now over fifteen years since he first endeavoured to carry out the idea; but the chief progress has been made within the last five years. It is not a new organization, but rather an extension of the Sunday-school.

Recognizing the fact that there are many people who either will not or cannot attend the Sunday-school, the design is to induce them to undertake to study the regular Sunday-school lesson at home for at least half an hour each week. They are waited upon at regular intervals, usually quarterly, by visitors who collect the record-cards filled up with the time devoted to the lesson each week and leave with them the lesson helps and blank record-cards for the ensuing period. All those under the same visitor are considered a class, and the aggregate of the classes makes up the Home Department of the school. The reports are all handed in to an officer of the school, and they are all recognized as members.

As may be imagined, the success of the scheme depends almost entirely upon the faithfulness and efficiency of the visitors. It has now been sufficiently tried to establish satisfactorily the fact that it is admirably adapted to widely different communities, from the prosperous city church to the sparsely settled rural neighbourhood. It would be difficult to find a church or locality where there is not at least sufficient material for such a work. Those who are not able to attend the Sunday-school on account of distance, or home duties, or want of health; or persons who are frequently absent, such as commercial travellers, railway employees, and the like, have in many cases been induced in this way to take up the systematic study of the Word of God under the International Lesson system. If parents or other adult members of

### Let Us Stand by the International System.

No human system nor organization can be absolutely perfect. The Sunday-school Lesson System is doubtless capable of improvement, but some of the radical attempts to improve it, we are persuaded, would destroy it. We think that every desirable improvement and adaptation of the lessons to the needs of the various grades and classes of our schools can be secured