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The Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHEROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1883.

Our Sunday-School Papers.

We sent out a short time since nearly three quarters of a ton of specimens of our Sunday-School literature and circulars as to our Sunday-School work. Already every mail brings numerous answers to our inquiries and subscriptions to our periodicals. In answer to our inquiries as to suggested improvements in our Sunday-School Papers or Sunday-School system, most of the writers have none to make; others say, "You are progressing rapidly in improvement in both," "I have no trouble to introduce our papers," "They are all good," "Go forward," "We think very highly of our S. S. papers and S. S. System," and the like. One minister writes for half a dozen copies of the S. S. Constitution, which he says not one of the teachers had ever seen.

One minister asks for better illustrations. We are happy to say that arrangements are being made to secure that desirable object, and that we purpose having as handsome illustrations as can be procured in either Europe or America. Another minister suggests that PLEASANT HOURS and HOME AND SCHOOL be published under one name weekly, instead of under two names semi-monthly. That matter was discussed in the Book Committee, and the general testimony of Superintendents is that as some schools can only take a paper once a fortnight, it would be better to have all the numbers of one paper; and to have another on alternate Sundays for other schools. Another correspondent asks for more matter in the *Scholar's Quarterly*. Well, this quarter we give four pages more, or 24 large pages for 2 cents. We know of nothing published so cheap as this. Our desire and object is to furnish everything that our Schools can need, at the lowest possible price. The past year has been one of the most rapid development our Sunday-School system ever experienced. We trust that the coming year shall witness still more rapid growth and improvement.

Methodist Union.

THE last week in November and the first of December will be memorable in the annals of Methodism in this Dominion. The representatives of four branches of Canadian Methodism met together, in the spirit of Christian love and concord, to devise means for bringing into one army the scattered forces which are endeavouring singly to fight the same common foe of God and man. The intercourse on that occasion was most delightful. The spirit of common brotherhood and mutual concession led to the happiest results. A basis of Union was formed which received the almost unanimous approval of the entire Committee, and which is shortly to be submitted to the Quarterly Meetings for endorsement. It is at least a very strong recommendation of this plan that it is the work, and commands the approval, of the foremost ministers and laymen of all the Methodist Churches in Canada. We hope and believe that it will pass the Quarterly Meetings with equal unanimity. All the rights, interests, and claims of the ministers and members of the separate Churches will be carefully secured and preserved; and the consolidation of the scattered forces of Methodism will give it an aggressive power for good, especially for missionary effort in the new territories of the North-west, such as it has never had, and which it now more than ever requires. The Union movement has succeeded beyond the most sanguine anticipations of its friends. Great and apparently insuperable difficulties have been removed out of the way. We believe that soon a united Methodist Church in the northern part of this continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, shall arise to the height of its privilege and obligation in evangelizing the whole Dominion for God, in laying the foundations of our future national greatness in righteousness and truth. We hope that soon instead of rival altars and

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