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Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, MAY, 1902

To Our Sabbath School Superintendents, Teachers and Officers

Dearly Beloved,—

Too high an estimate cannot be placed upon the glorious work in which you are engaged, forming the character and inspiring and directing the life of such multitudes of the children and youth of our country. In the conversion of the soul and instruction in the Word of God you are building up the nation, the Church of our Christ, and the kingdom of our God. Truth, purity, righteousness, love, are set as our guardians and guides. Evil must be shunned and averted as well as good sought and secured. In this view the General Conference of our Church has made distinct provision for temperance work in all our schools, and for inculcating principles of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors. As you are aware, also, our General and Annual Con-

ferences and Sabbath School Conventions have declared themselves frequently and persistently in favour of the legal prohibition of the liquor traffic, so fraught with sin, evil, degradation, crime, and woe to the person, the home, and the commonwealth.

In the advance of the prohibition movement, there is now an unprecedented conflict upon our people, a struggle to obtain by legal enactment the abolition of the saloon and the treating, drinking bar. We are not indifferent to the place of moral and social effort in this movement, but we appeal also to public opinion and public law, and feel at this juncture the importance of employing every available agency in arousing the public mind upon this tremendous public issue. Our Sabbath Schools can greatly aid in this work of begetting and maintaining public interest, and will themselves be immensely profited by the effort and achievement. By special lessons, by singing temperance hymns, by participating in temperance meetings, by pledging, by banners, mottoes, and processions, much can be done in a proper spirit and way to revive the old-time energy and carry our noble cause on to victory. We respectfully solicit in this important business your most earnest co-operation.

By order of the Ontario Section of the General Conference Standing Committee on Temperance, Prohibition, and Moral Reform.

A. CARMAN,
General Superintendent.

W. KETTLEWELL,
Chairman of Committee.

D. L. BRETHOUR,
Secretary.

A Call to Duty

The above ringing bugle blast is the official summons to action of the specially constituted authority of our Church, to which is assigned the duty of representing and acting for the General Conference in the great temperance crisis now before the Province of Ontario. We feel

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