

SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT FOR 1896.

The Sabbath School report this year is not characterized by any special item. We are glad to be able to assure the parents, however, that we are trying to teach the children of our church the truths of the Word of God. We trust we have the sympathy of the congregation in our work. In many instances the religious teaching of the children is left wholly to the Sabbath School; hence there is the greater need for God's blessing on our labors, that home neglect may be overcome. Yet the best results can never be obtained apart from the genuine assistance of those who remain at home. We plead with you who send children, whether little or big, to the Sabbath School, to give us your help; pray for your children and for us; instruct them at home in the lessons they study; encourage and direct them in the daily reading of God's Truth; be students of the Bible with the children; come often yourselves to the Sabbath School, and lend us all the aid you can in that branch of the church which helped you in your childhood, and which can bless your children for this life and for all eternity.

The average attendance for the year has exceeded that of the former year by only one. This is practically not a gain, yet it serves to show that the school is not going backward in point of attendance. In the matter of collections we are behind, and we are convinced that the falling off is due to carelessness and not to any other cause. Surely we might very reasonably expect a cent each Sabbath from every scholar, yet there are some who seldom or never have a cent to give. Our average attendance of pupils and teachers is 159; the average offering is \$1 63. Now, at the most modest calculation, we ought to have an average collection of \$2.50, which is 1 cent per scholar, and 5 cents from each teacher. We assure you who send children that we are sadly hampered in our efforts to make our school attractive and as helpful as it ought to be without a fair collection. Papers consume much money, and our library has not been replenished for a long time. We desire to give the children wholesome books and papers—the best is none too good for them—but we cannot do the best work without money. Will you kindly bear in mind this plea for a larger offering, and see that your children come each Sabbath with at least one cent.

Encourage, too, the little ones in their monthly offering for Missions, to make it freely and intelligently. Giving is a grace, and as such needs to be cultivated. The generous Christian is the happiest Christian, and the one most blessed by our Heavenly Father.

We have gained and lost teachers during the year. One of our most enthusiastic teachers is Mr. Bell, who came to the Sabbath School out of love for it, and who has shown in practical ways his interest in our work. The School is a gainer through his coming.

Our annual picnic was held in June to Stanley Park. We are glad to know that the days' outing was so enjoyable. The cost of the picnic this year was much less than that for several years past.

We regret to have to announce the resignation of Mr. James Dick and Mr. James Wilson, our Librarians. In referring to the Library we may report that several volumes have been presented to it by both individuals and classes. Such contributions are welcome from any source.