

APPENDIX G.

Report of the Sunday School and Book and Tract Committee.

Sunday School Business.

The Committee presented, last year, an amended plan of Sunday School Lessons for 1875-6, being the first of a series, forming altogether a Four Years' Scheme of Lessons, which has been completed, and will be brought to a close at the beginning of Advent in the current year. This plan is again submitted this year, with a slight change, which will facilitate its use in those schools in which the paper of Sunday School Lessons has been introduced.

The Committee have reason to believe that the Scheme has been of very great service not only throughout the Diocese, but beyond its limits, materially assisting the endeavours of those members of our Church, who devote themselves to the important service of communicating religious instruction to the young.

The plan prepared last year by the Committee for the holding of Sunday School Conventions has been acted on since the last meeting of Synod in the Rural Deaneries of East and West Simcoe. The Convention was attended by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese (who preached at an evening service held on the first day of the meeting,) and by thirteen of the Clergy.

Papers were read by Rural Dean Stewart on "Rewards and Forfeitures in our Sunday Schools;" by Rural Dean Lett, who also gave examples of teaching by the Black Board; by the Rev. Mr. Murphy, on "Sunday School Publications for Use Among Children;" by J. C. Morgan, Esq., on Sunday School Music, and by the Rev. A. H. Baldwin, who had kindly gone from Toronto to attend the Convention, on "Children's Services."

The Committee venture to express their conviction that these conventions are calculated to be productive of much good, by furnishing opportunities for an interchange of the results of individual experience between those who are engaged in the care of Sunday Schools, by giving useful information, theoretical or practical, in the form of papers carefully prepared for the purpose, and by awakening among all who attend them a more lively and intelligent interest in a great work, which, without such encouragement, is but too likely to be neglected, or to be performed in a feeble and perfunctory manner. The Committee, therefore, trust that they may be enabled to report next year that such meetings have been held in every Rural Deanery in the Diocese, and that no local discouragements may deter those, with whom the matter rests, from making the attempt, as they are assured that friends from a distance would willingly lend their aid, if necessary, to make such gatherings profitable and pleasant.

The Committee further suggest that if periodical examinations of children, selected from the several classes by the teachers, as the best of their respective classes, were conducted either by the Clergyman or by some well-qualified person whose services he may be able to secure, such examinations would act as a very wholesome spur to the studies of the children; more especially if prizes were given, awarded not only according to the results of the examinations, but also in recognition of regular attendance and good conduct. The Committee are of opinion that each examination should cover the lessons which have occupied the children in the Sunday School during the interval between it and the last.

Book and Tract Business.

The number of parishes and schools aided during the year was 41.

The numbers of the several kinds of books granted (not including Sunday School libraries, catechisms, and miscellaneous books and tracts) were as follows: