

## CANADIAN HELPS FOR CANADIAN SCHOOLS.

Before entering upon the publication of lesson helps of our own, correspondence was entered into with the Presbyterian Board of Publication at Philadelphia, with a view of ascertaining whether some arrangement, similar to that obtaining between the Methodist churches of Canada and the United States, could not be made with regard, at least, to the republication in Canada of a Canadianized edition of the Westminster lesson helps and illustrated papers. The Committee offered to do the work of re-editing, printing and publishing, and pay a royalty on the subscription list, provided the Board would furnish duplicate plates of the periodicals in question and refer all orders from Canada to them. This proposal the Board declined to consider, and the Committee were unwilling to accede to any terms which did not place the whole business in Canada in their hands. The correspondence was closed by the representative of the Board declaring "It does not seem to me possible that we can arrive at any conclusion that would be satisfactory to us," and "I think it is hardly worth while for us to carry on any further negotiations."

In view of this failure to come to any satisfactory terms with the Philadelphia Board, your Committee were unanimously of the opinion that the time had come when our schools should be supplied with their own lesson helps, and that the large profits now going to swell the gains of a foreign corporation should be retained for the advancement of the work in our own church. The circulation these have reached during the first six months of their issue amply testifies to the cordial support that our schools are willing to give.

### THE ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTIONS.

The following are the resolutions of the Assembly regarding our work: First—"That in view of the comparatively small number of commissioners remaining, and the impossibility, at this Assembly, of giving adequate consideration to the recommendation of the committee, the S. S. committee be authorized to arrange for the carrying of the debt of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) incurred for another year, that in the meantime the work of publication be continued, and that the question of establishing a Board of Sabbath School publication, and the appointment of an editor, be referred to Presbyteries, to be reported on to next Assembly."

On this note (1) By rejecting the recommendation of the Assembly's committee, supported as it was by the ablest financiers in the church, such as Drs. Warden and Morrison, the committee are prevented from availing themselves of the very great saving, amounting to over a thousand dollars, which would be gained by removal of their headquarters to Toronto. With their utmost efforts they cannot expect to be in as good a position next assembly as if they had been permitted to remove to the more advantageous locality and place their work under the undivided attention of one person.

(2) By a reference to the first page of this number it will be seen that the \$5,000 is not a debt in the usual acceptance of the term. It rather represents capital borrowed in order to carry on a very flourishing business. Still the committee are very anxious to get the \$5,000, and urgently appeal to their friends to subscribe it in order that their publications may be wholly free from any liability.

(3) To speak of "establishing a Board of S. S. Publication" unfairly prejudices the case. The only question before the church is "Shall the S. S. Committee publish lesson helps for our Schools as the Record committee publishes the Record and the Children's Record." One is no more a "Board of Publication" than the other. No new machinery is proposed beyond what is now in operation.

(4) If the publication of these helps is to be continued, indeed, if the whole work of the S. S. Committee is not to collapse, some one must be set apart to look after this department. It is quite impossible to carry it on along with a pastoral charge. The appointment of an editor or manager will entail no new expense upon the church, for after this year the income from the periodicals and "Children's Day" collections will amply meet all charges.

(5) Presbyteries are respectfully asked to defer consideration of the remit until next March, when the prospects of our finances and subscription lists for 1897 will be known. The committee hope to place facts before them then which will help them to a wise and acceptable decision.

The second resolution of the Assembly was as follows: "The General Assembly requests that the whole collection taken up in connection with 'Children's Day' services be given to the Sabbath School Committee. Had this been done in every case last year there would have been no deficit on the work of the past twelve months. But many schools, not realizing the needs of the Committee, thinking only of the modest appeals of previous years, sent what was indeed a liberal donation from their standpoint, but which was only a small portion of what had been collected for the Committee in the envelopes supplied by them. The greater portion was given to some other scheme of the Church. The Committee think they are as much entitled to the proceeds of Children's Day services as any other of the Assembly's Committees to that on the day set apart for them.

With the October number the Convener will resume the preparation of the Notes on the Lessons. The MONTHLY will then be enlarged to thirty-two pages and will give a very full exposition of the lessons.