

the banner is in use, there is enthusiastic testimony as to its influence upon the classes in stimulating to greater exertions, in the hope of attaining to this honorable position; nor need we wonder at this in the case of children, when we bear in mind that even many "children of a larger growth" are not insusceptible to similar influences.

As to the benefits derived. From statements made by brethren connected with several of the Montreal schools, I call the following:

1st. The offensive system of Christmas-card begging has been superseded by "a more excellent way."

2nd. Scholars are encouraged to *give their own* money, and, as a consequence, take a deeper interest in the work. As one brother remarks, "You know there is always greater interest in a thing that costs something" and a *spirit of liberality* is being developed.

3rd. Success attends the effort, because all are engaged in it.

Many individual illustrations might be given of the truth of the foregoing. For instance: One boy contracted to blacken the boots for the family for a compensation, which was all devoted to the missionary-box. Others denied themselves sugar in their tea, receiving cash instead, which also went to missions. One noble fellow collected, saved, and gave nearly \$70 in one year.

I wish here to call attention to another plan which is worked with good results by the Presbyterian Sunday-school in Sarnia. The society is formed in a similar manner to those in Montreal, but their mode of operations is different. A certain number of collectors are appointed—say twelve; the town is divided into a corresponding number of wards, and each collector is furnished with a book in which to enter the names of persons who agree to contribute a certain sum monthly. This is regularly called for by the collector, and entered in its proper column in the book. Monthly meetings are held, when returns are made by the collectors; and two young people, previously appointed, relate some missionary incident, or something in that line. At the close of the year the society, by vote, distributes the amount in hand to the several missionary enterprises of the Church. In their school-room, neatly printed lists of their mission-stations are hung upon the walls, and occasionally a photograph or picture of a mission-house, convent, or locality is displayed. Missionary intelligence is extensively circulated.

This paper would be incomplete without a reference to what has been for many years known in England as the Blake System, which is neither more nor less than a *small weekly contribution* system. Mr. Blake, the originator thereof, had for years been a witness to the unsatisfactory working of the Christmas-card system, as well as the lack of properly-trained adult missionary collectors, and set his mind upon devising a plan which, while yielding at least equally good financial results, would at the same time train in the Church a continuous

supply of efficient and interested missionary collectors. His plan, in brief, is as follows:—Books are prepared with spaces for eight names, and fifty-two columns for as many weeks; opportunity is then given to the children, as many as will deem it a privilege, for the sake of the cause, to take possession of a book, and secure within a circle of their friends or acquaintances the promise of *eight* persons (no more) to contribute *one halfpenny* (no more) *weekly*, with a distinct understanding that it does not interfere with any existing contributions. A limit is placed upon the number and amount of subscriptions, in order that none may be prevented from contributing, and to give opportunity to the largest possible number to engage in the work of collecting. Great importance is attached to the *weekly* collection of these halfpence, which are by the collectors paid regularly to a treasurer elected for that purpose. Each juvenile collector is entitled to receive a copy of the Society's magazine, *At Home and Abroad*, filled with missionary information and incidents.

The results quoted are in many cases really surprising. For instance, in one of the schools in Manchester, which was about to be abandoned, the plan was introduced. The first year the result was £17; the second, £29; the third, £64; the fourth, £75. In the Sheffield West Circuit, the three best years of the Christmas-card system yielded £113. The *small weekly contribution* system, during the first three years, yielded £459; and in the Sheffield East Circuit the increase was from £252 to £755 in the same time.

As the success of our missionary operations depends upon *collecting* as well as *contributing*, it is worthy of consideration whether the best features of the several systems named might not be incorporated into one that may serve as a model not only for the schools connected with this association, but for those of the Church at large.

Constitution of the Sunday-School Missionary Society.

I. NAME.

The organization shall be called "THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL MISSIONARY SOCIETY."

II. OBJECT.

The object shall be to raise funds on behalf of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, by such means as shall best inculcate the principle of systematic beneficence, and train the scholars in the work of collecting for and advocating the claims of Methodist Missions.

III. METHODS.

1. CLASS CONTRIBUTIONS.—Each class shall be furnished with a book, ruled with columns for one year, in which the names of members of the class shall be entered, and their weekly contributions credited.

2. SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The discipline of each class shall be such as to secure the regular attendance of each scholar.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.—The Society shall, from time to time, either for special occasions or for the general benefit, be furnished with such other plans and suggestions as may be deemed wise by the Society.

The officers of the Society shall be:—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed wise by the Society.

V. DUTIES.

The duties of the officers shall be:—The President shall receive and distribute the contributions of the collectors, and open each year in the book of contributions. The Vice-President shall receive the contributions of the collectors, and make monthly reports of the same to the Society. The Secretary shall receive the contributions of the collectors, and make monthly reports of the same to the Society. The Treasurer shall receive the contributions of the collectors, and make monthly reports of the same to the Society.

NOTE.—The Constitution of the Society shall be evidence of the same, and shall be exercised by the Society, and shall be exercised by the Society.

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