

## Sunday-School Aid and Extension Fund.

THE growth of this department of Sunday-school work has also been very marked. The number of grants made to poor schools since October, 1882, is 318; in connection with which over 900 letters have been received and written.

The grants have been distributed through every province of the Dominion and Island of Newfoundland; especially in the newer regions of the Upper Ottawa and the Muskoka and Algoma territory, in Manitoba and the North-West, and in the mining settlements of British Columbia. Many grateful testimonies have shown the warm appreciation with which they have been received.

The following are examples—all from ministers whose schools have been helped by the Fund:

"A year ago we had but two schools on this circuit, now we have five."

"Since opening the school our congregation has, I think, doubled."

"The papers are doing immense service here, getting into homes where High Church doctrines are sent in tract form. You will find that much fruit will come of it."

These are specimens of hundreds of letters received.

In making grants to schools, they are expected to contribute, if possible, something toward these grants. In this way, within fourteen months, nearly \$400 have been received from schools asking grants, and nearly as much more has been promised. With each school receiving aid a separate account is kept, which is rendered at regular intervals till the account is paid, except in cases where the Sunday-school Board decides that the grant shall be absolutely free.

The Fund also pays for printing and mailing Sunday-school schedules, circulars, reports, Sunday-school constitution, etc., and for express charges and postage donations of Sunday-school libraries.

The Treasurer's Report, duly audited, will be presented to the Annual Meeting.

Donations of about 200 new books have been made by publishers, for the purpose of examination for the Winnowed List, which will thus be largely extended without expense to the Fund.

About 4,000 volumes of second-hand library books, donated by schools, have been gratuitously distributed during the year.

For these there are always several applications, and schools can do much good by sending to the Editor their old libraries. Ship in box as freight, and we will pay charges.

## Give God's Words to the Children.

WHEN the corn-field is duly planted, and the season for sunshine and fruitful rains has arrived, it often happens that cold north winds blow, and snow covers the planted field. The spectacle may chill, but does not destroy, the farmer's hope. He knows that the winds may change, the sun shine out, the snows melt, and the seed sprout into vigorous growth. May not this hopeful farmer teach a valuable lesson to disheartened parents and teachers? Their instructions, like his seed, often seem hopelessly lost beneath the frivolity, the carelessness, the wilfulness, the rebelliousness of the children. No sprouts appear. It seems impossible that the seed can be living in such volatile, apparently inattentive, perverse natures. But appearances must not be permitted to mislead. Children often carry their worst traits outside. The seed sown in them is not dead; it cannot die, because it has a divine germ of life in it. True, it may be ultimately choked by perversity, but the chances are in favour of its springing up and growing into beauty in the minds of properly instructed children, because, being in their minds, the Holy Spirit can use it with transforming effect. Instead, therefore, of yielding to discouragement, teachers and parents should believe and hope, as Keble sings:—

"O say not, dream not, heavenly notes

To childish ears are vain,  
That the young mind at random floats,  
And cannot reach the strain.

Dim or unheard, the words may fall,

And yet the heaven-taught mind

May learn the sacred air, and all

The harmony unwind."—*S. S. Journal.*

## One's Own Library.

HE who reads the right books will widen the world he lives in, ascend the social heights that are about him, strengthen his intellectual powers, increase his opportunities for usefulness, and multiply his sources of enjoyment.

A man who loves wise and good books is thereby protected against many of the temptations and ills of life.

A man who reads is never alone. The squire across the way may ignore him; the banker never hear his name; the doctor never covet his patronage, nor the schoolmaster count him of any importance, but, by himself, in quiet quarters, he may soar with Milton, laugh with Lamb and Sydney Smith, study nature with Hugh Miller and Tyndall, tread the starry dis-