

missionaries of the cross, to carry the Gospel to the perishing millions who are dying in darkness and idolatry. The time is short before the Conferences meet. Let there be speedily organized such an effort as will show what can be done when all work with a will, and give a long pull and a short pull and a pull altogether.

Our New Sunday-school Paper.

THE orders for our new paper, *Happy Days*, have been coming in with wonderful rapidity. We have already had to print two large additions, and it looks as if we would have to print another. Send along your orders promptly, and give the little folk a paper for every Sunday. The more we have to print, the better paper we can publish.

Lesson Helps for 1886.

WE received, too late for notice in the January BANNER, the Lesson Commentary for 1886, by Dr. John Vincent and Rev. J. H. Hurlbut, M.A. A handsome 8vo. of 309 pages, with copious illustrations. New York: Phillips & Hunt, and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price \$1.25. In buying this book, one buys the substance of many commentaries, so far as these lessons are concerned, no less than 178 commentators and writers on the subjects under discussion being quoted. The book is prepared with the thorough adaptation which has characterized the previous volumes of the series, and is one of the best available lesson helps.

The Berean Senior, Intermediate, and Beginner's Lesson Books, for 1886, by the same publishers, price 20 cents each, will be found as useful as ever. We can give no higher praise.

MESSRS. FUNK & WAGNALL issue *Pocket Lesson Notes on the International Sabbath-school Lessons for 1886*, for pastors, parents, and teachers of all grades. By Rev. and Mrs. Wilbur F. Crafts. It is issued quarterly, neatly bound in paper. Teacher's edition, \$1 per year; scholar's edition, 25 cents per year. This is a very helpful series of lesson notes.

FROM S. R. Briggs we have received two packages of floral tracts, by Rev. E. P. Hammond. Beautifully illuminated, price 15 cents each.

Dr. Douglas on the Missionary Crisis.

If ever the thunder of the Methodist press, the electric voice of her pulpit, and the awakened enthusiasm of her laity were demanded to redress a wrong inflicted on the families of our domestic missionaries, the hour has come. Assuredly the Church must have overlooked the fact brought to light by the published report of the Missionary Committee of the Niagara Conference, that the entire income (slightly affected by children's funds in some Conferences) of our domestic missionaries will be the sum of \$450 for the current year; in other words, that only \$1.26 per diem is the compensation which our Church gives to provide fuel, food, raiment, and education, horse keep with attendant expenditure, to say nothing of literature and the many claims to which a minister's income is ever subjected. There is not a skilled mechanic in our workshops, not an untutored stevedore on our wharves, not a cab-driver in our streets, but would scorn the allowance which the Methodist Church of Canada tenders to the honored men who are to-day toiling in fields impoverished, isolated, and compassed with discouragements. When the Central Board was confronted with a deficiency of over \$20,000, we can testify to the deep feeling which affected the members of that Board; but what must be the blank dismay, the humiliation and anguish of honorable men, when, after the most economic domestic adjustments, theirs is the degradation of being coerced into unavoidable expenditures, which it is doubtful they can meet.

It is impossible to estimate the damage which this financial embarrassment entails—damage to the reputation of the Church and her funds; damage to the prestige of the ministry; damage which will project its effects along the years. It is conceded that the Church of the immediate future demands gifts, culture and the elements of power in its coming ministry. Can we hope that a higher class of men will be attracted to the Church which thus disregards its obligations to the honored and consecrated men who have absolutely surrendered themselves and the interests of their families to its service and care. Nothing but an immediate and united effort to wipe off the escutcheons of the Church this dark dishonor will avert its permanent disadvantage.