

with the ultimate object of equipping schools with certificated teachers. (5) Standing Committee to take charge of the whole. And fully expecting the permission of the General Conference to proceed, we further recommend to this Conference that this Standing Committee be forthwith appointed so as to be able to report a matured scheme to the next Annual Conference.

Knowing that the report of this committee never reaches the large constituency of our Sunday Schools, which, we have reason to believe, might be helped by such deliberations, we request that this report or portions thereof be printed in some of our Sunday School papers.

Ambrose Kent, Chairman.
Wm. E. Hassard, Secretary.

This report was adopted by the Conference, and the following were appointed as the Standing Committee: Revs. Dr. Withrow, Dr. Wallace, Prof. McLaughlin, A. C. Crews, W. E. Hassard, and Messrs. Ambrose Kent, J. R. L. Starr, D. Stouffer, J. L. McPherson, and G. M. Lee.

Bible Study Sunday, Sept. 14, 1902.

TWO years ago a Bible Study Sunday was announced by the American Institute of Sacred Literature. So great was the enthusiasm with which the day was observed in its first and second year that it now needs no introduction to the public. The plan is exceedingly simple. The pastor of a church wishing to co-operate in the observance of the day promises to preach upon the chosen date, at his chief service, a sermon upon some phase of the subject, "Bible Study in its Relation to the Life and Work of the Church and of the Individual Christian." He may further promise to make an active effort to enlist his people in the systematic study of the Bible, either in organized groups or individually.

The day was first observed in September, 1900, in nine hundred churches. In September, 1901, two thousand churches joined in the movement. This in itself was a great result, but the real good accomplished was in the wave of enthusiasm for Bible study which spread over many of the congregations listening to the sermons delivered. Ten thousand persons have each year since enrolled themselves under the instruction of the American Institute of Sacred Literature,

and many more than this number have pursued courses of study issued by their denominational organizations. The demand for systematic courses has tripled, and the day seems near when no others will find acceptance. The hundreds of pastors who have themselves led classes claim almost without exception (1) that the Bible class has united pastor and people in the closer relation of teacher and pupil; (2) that in the church as a whole interest in the Bible has deepened and increased; (3) that this new interest has affected the prayer-meeting, bringing out new material and freshening the old; (4) that the standard of instruction in the Sunday School has been visibly raised.

Dates for 1902, September 14 and September 28.—Two dates are set for the observance next autumn: September 14 and September 28, the latter for the city churches alone. It has seemed best to make this distinction, since city churches do not reassemble as early as those in the country. These dates are not arbitrary, and can be changed within reasonable limits to suit local conditions.

In issuing this call the Institute desires expressly to state that the movement represents all Bible study, not that of any denomination or school of interpretation. It stipulates no special books or study material. Every minister is urged to observe the day, and to see that classes are organized, the particular course of study and the manner of its pursuit being left to his own discretion. The Institute will, however, be glad to send to any minister who wishes to introduce its courses, full material for examination in advance.

Special order of service and sermon outlines.—A new special order of service will be supplied each co-operating pastor. A new series of suggestive outlines for sermons will also be provided. These outlines, as last year, will be prepared by famous preachers and teachers from both sides of the ocean. For the benefit of those who wish to give instructive addresses upon the history or literature of the Bible, lists of helpful books will accompany the outlines.

When and how ministers may co-operate.—Pledge your own name immediately, thus adding the weight of "I have done so" to anything which you may say upon the subject. Keep the day in your own mind and in the minds of your people, so that each may be ready when the time comes to embrace with enthusiasm the opportunity to enter upon or to continue systematic Bible study in one form or another.