

increased by a return to the original object"? be put second on the Docket, and that the third topic be,—How can we gather into our Schools the thousands of children who now neglect them? and that the topics previously named as 2nd and 3rd, be placed 4th and 5th respectively.—Adopted.

The question "WHAT IS THE BEST MODE OF TRAINING TEACHERS FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS," was then taken up.

The Rev. Mr. SMART (Brockville) said, that from an experience of forty-three or forty-four years, which was about the length of time since he became a Sunday School teacher, he had come to the conclusion, that the best mode of improving teachers was by their frequently meeting together and holding cordial Christian communion on the task in which they were engaged. That was the plan which had been adopted at the Fitzroy School in London, with which he had been connected, and where there were 400 or 500 children. The teachers assembled at six o'clock on Sunday morning to converse, and to lay their feelings, and difficulties and encouragements before each other, so as to perfect their plans for the extension of the gospel through the school. He had attempted to carry out the same plan in Brockville, and so far as it was tried it had been very successful. Indeed if there was anything that could cheer the heart and mind of the old man who addressed them, it was the retrospect of those times. He could not tell the number of missionaries and ministers who had gone forth from the Fitzroy School. The Morrisons, Gordons, Milnes, and many others had however begun their career in it. And so it was at Brockville. There the teachers had more time than in London, and they met once a week to converse among themselves, and once a week to converse with the children round a table. There had been not less than six or eight ministers go out from that school, and he believed its success was chiefly owing to the intercourse of which he had spoken. This was one means and though not the only one, was a very important means of training teachers. One great defect in the lives of Christians in this country was the want of communication between themselves. They heard a sermon, good, bad, or middling, and then left the Church for the week; but they did not rally round each other: nor become acquainted with each other as they should do. Neither were the ministers sufficiently acquainted with their people, for they were generally very deficient in visiting. The same thing was true of Sunday School teachers.

Mr. RUTHERFORD (Peterboro) conceived that the chief difficulty of carrying on Sunday Schools was found in procuring properly qualified teachers, and this question of training was, therefore, of the very highest importance. Long connected with Sunday Schools, the last four years as a superintendent, he knew the difficulty well. In Peterboro, they had found the best plan for meeting this trouble was to form a class expressly for the purpose of educating Sunday School teachers. In that place, they had found that adults, not being the masters of their own time, did not make the best teachers, for family ties frequently kept them away from the school. Besides, men advanced in life had

not generally had the same advantages of intellectual training as the young men who were growing up. But by establishing a Bible Class, many young persons, who were not likely soon to leave the school were interested in its operations. What had been said already was very well; but he thought the first thing was training. At Peterboro, they had an excellent class for teachers many of whom continued in the school, and better than all, became converted.

Mr. MORRIS (Perth) remarked that the Scotch Church School to which he belonged had adopted the same course, and it turned out that teachers thus trained always took more interest in the school than those who had not been thus educated.

Mr. HETHINGTON (Melbourne) acquiescing in the views of the previous speakers, recommended moreover the plan he had seen adopted in Lower Canada, of discussing beforehand the lesson which was to be given out on the coming Sabbath. At the meeting for this discussion the minister took the chair *ex-officio*, and the teachers having given their sentiments upon the topic in hand, the minister corrected them if he observed any thing erroneous in their views. Thus all were prepared to give instruction to the children. There were several ministers who were first taught in that school.

Mr. BEGG (London) believed it was of the greatest importance, especially in Union Schools, that the teachers should be better instructed in the best modes of teaching their classes. It was easy to get persons to attempt to teach; but it was not easy to secure that interest in the work and qualification for it which were required. In London, under the direction of his pastor, there was a large Bible class for the training of the teachers; and he held that it was the duty of the pastor thus to train the young of the flock. Any one who did not meet the Bible or some similar class once a week, did not do his duty. Besides the Bible class, his pastor was in the habit, during six months of the year, of meeting the teachers one night in the week, and going over the lesson of the following Sabbath with them, giving them all the information in his power upon the doctrines embraced in the lesson, or upon the illustrations of the country, or manners of the people which might come up in reading. This could not be done in country places where the ministers resided at great distances; but in such cases his place might be taken by the most intelligent teacher.

Rev. Mr. JEFFERS (Montreal) thought a resolution should be passed recommending, that in connection with every Sunday School there should be a Bible class taught, either by a minister or some other competent person, which class should be made subservient to the objects of the school, and that as part of the regular work of the school there should be a male and female Normal or Training School, out of which the teachers for the Sunday School might be selected. He therefore moved:—

Resolved, That with reference to the training of teachers, it is desirable and earnestly to be recommended, that, when practicable, there be maintained in connection with each school a Bible class for teachers, and such elder and more advanced scholars as are invited. The said class to meet once a week. And that in