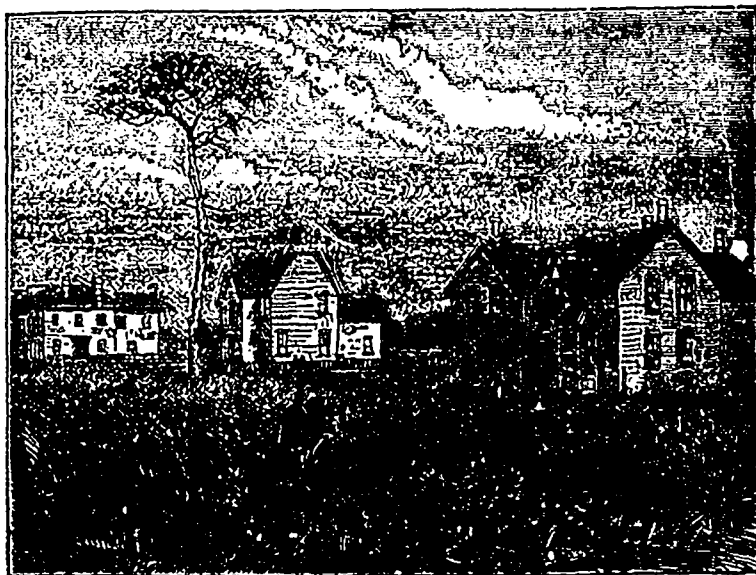




EMMANUEL COLLEGE, DIOCESE OF SASKATCHEWÂN.

ing. When these vessels have been gathered, the secretary should credit each class with the amount of its gifts, and then empty them upon the plate or alms-basin. At some fixed time in the Sunday school service, they should be reverently placed upon the table by the superintendent, the whole school meanwhile rising and singing some words suitable to the act.

5. *By a prudent and well known disposal of the offerings.* Have some definite object or objects to which the Sunday school offerings are to be devoted, and in this, *let the school have a voice in choosing* from several fields, one or more towards whose cultivation their gifts are to be applied. For example, the maintenance, in whole or in part, of a heathen child under instruction in some Church school, a young convert from heathenism who is being trained to bear the Gospel to his own people, or a missionary laboring somewhere to bring sheaves into the garner of the Lord; and, whatever the field chosen, we should endeavor to have frequent reports of the progress of the work from the persons benefited, in order that the school may maintain a personal sympathy with and an active interest in that particular part of the missionary field. "But," objects someone "all this about the Sunday schools contributing to missionary work is impracticable in our school; because it takes all we can raise from our Sunday offerings and from Sunday school concerts and entertainments to keep our school going; so that after we have paid for our leaflets, and class-books, and teacher's helps, replenished our library and made some Christmas presents to the scholars, there is very little indeed left for missionary purposes." Yes, I am well aware that the majority of Sunday schools are thus supported, and I regret to say that my own is still among

the number; but, my brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Are the children in the nursery expected to maintain themselves? Are they not rather the objects of our care and pensioners upon our bounty, in order that they may thrive and grow, giving forth from their trustful, loving hearts sunlight and cheer and joy to all around? Even so should it be with the children of the "Church nursery." The Church which bears a proper relation to the Sunday school is as much under the obligation to provide the means for the maintenance of its school as are parents to provide for the support and education of their children. Their offerings should not be expended for the material benefit of their own

school: but all should be devoted to benevolent objects outside of the school and its pecuniary interests. What an ignoble motive to place before the children of the Sunday school, that the more their contributions amount to during the year, the more library books they will have, the larger the prizes that will be given, or the handsomer will be the gifts that they shall receive from the Christmas tree! What plan could possibly be adopted better fitted for cultivating and fostering that spirit of selfishness which is innate in the human heart, and for shrivelling up and starving out any generous desire or benevolent sympathy?

III. Why desire to enlist the Sunday-school pupils in the missionary army? Two very excellent reasons, amongst others deducible, I shall mention:—

1. Because of the present and the prospective benefits to the cause of Christ resulting from so doing. The great and urgent need of the Church for means to carry on her vast missionary work, is the frequently reiterated theme of the pulpit and the platform; yet, of that need, the half has never been told. Indeed, when we reflect upon the contrast between the large and extravagant scale upon which many professing Christians lavish money for the gratification of their selfish desires, and the niggardly way in which they dole out their scant pennies for missionary purposes, we may well exclaim with a celebrated English divine, "If the enormous and ever-multiplying swarms of human beings who know not Christ are ever to know His name, if they are not within a measurable time to choke the earth with the spiritually dead, Christians at home must rise to the occasion, and lavish means and men on a very different scale from anything hitherto seen. The dignity of