

can always have their libraries supplied from time to time from the booksellers. But we know that there are schools, in remote localities and struggling under difficulties, which have neither the means nor the opportunities of obtaining books, and yet which should not be without them. Now it must be evident to every Superintendent of a Sabbath School that, where a library in connection with it has been in existence for some years, and certain of the books, having been often read, cease to be attractive and remain as lumber on the shelves. Could some scheme not be devised to have all these sent to a central spot, taken charge of, and formed into libraries for schools which cannot otherwise obtain books. Once formed and in operation, we have little doubt that donations of new books would flow in from friends of the cause. We do not profess here to say how this scheme should be worked out, as we would prefer to receive suggestions from Sabbath School Teachers themselves. We would, however, urge it on their attention.

The statistics as to our Sabbath Schools are very defective. We believe the Convener has been most anxious to obtain information; the fault is not with him but with the Superintendents. At the Anniversary Meeting of the Sabbath School Union of Canada, the number of scholars belonging to our Church was reported as four thousand. According to the calculation of the Convener there are fully double that number, but that is only a guess. The only way to do ourselves justice is for the information to be supplied that is necessary, and we trust Superintendents will look to this. Our mode of taking statistics of all our schemes is very imperfect; here, at least, we may make a beginning to enter upon a new course.

As usual in Montreal, in the month of January, we have had the Anniversaries of the various religious societies connected with the Protestant Church. While, perhaps, there has not been the same amount of good done as might have been accomplished; while most of the speakers expressed their sorrow that a greater degree of energy in the various branches of Christian work had not been displayed; we yet feel that there is much encouragement from the past, much reason to thank God and take courage. We should desire to see a greater interest taken in these meetings by brethren from the country; at present,—not, we are persuaded, from any fault of the Com-

mittee of arrangement,—the speaking is confined to the city clergymen, and these meetings have therefore the appearance of being local, and their interest confined to Montreal. This we feel the promoters must be desirous to avoid, and we have little doubt that a judicious intermixture of speakers from different parts of the country would give these meetings the appearance of being what they are in reality, catholic in their aims and objects. We say this with no desire to find fault, but rather with the wish to see these meetings productive of still more good. They are of great benefit; they strengthen the resolutions of our congregations; they encourage the hearts of the committees charged with the carrying out of the objects of the various societies, they draw men closer to each other, they present common ground upon which all Christians can meet and co-operate, they direct attention to the claims of our fellow-men lying in darkness, and they show to all the world that divided though Protestants may be into various denominations, they are all one in Christ.

Under the head of *The Churches and their Missions* will be found a report of these meetings. We have endeavoured, in preparing it, to give the sum and substance of the proceedings in as interesting a form as possible, and to that report we commend our readers.

SCHEMES OF OUR CHURCH.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.—We are happy to observe that this excellent scheme continues to meet with so generous a support from the people. Our readers will see acknowledged in this number, on the inside of the cover, several very liberal collections.

FRENCH MISSION.—We are much pleased to find that a little more interest appears to be felt in this mission. In our January number the Treasurer acknowledged the very large sum of ninety dollars from Melbourne. The Sherbrooke charge, only formed a few months ago, has contributed above fourteen dollars. These are examples worthy of imitation by our other congregations.

HOME MISSION.—This scheme appears to have been almost entirely lost sight of by our people. If our operations are to be extended, it is clear that more liberal contributions must be made towards this most important object.