

## CHAPTER XIV.

### *THE SABBATH SCHOOL*

During the Rev. Wm. Macalister's pastorate, 1842-1853, the only Sabbath School in the Village of Sarnia was a Union School. In July, 1855, the first year of the Rev. David Walker's pastorate, the question of a Presbyterian Sabbath School was favorably considered by the session, but no immediate action was taken. In 1857 the first St. Andrew's Sabbath School was organized. The Union Sabbath School, however, seems to have continued in existence until 1865.

In 1863 St. Andrew's Sabbath School changed its hour of meeting from the forenoon to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Walker was relieved of the care of the school in 1863, and Mr. John Brebner of the Grammar School became superintendent. Mr. Brebner was associated with the school from 1863 until his removal to Ottawa in 1870. A "Band of Hope" was organized in the school in 1867.

Mr. James B. Barrie acted as superintendent from 1870 to 1872, when he was followed by Mr. A. Craise who continued in office until his removal to Denver, Colorado, in 1877. In 1875, while Mr. Craise was superintendent the Sabbath School Missionary Society was organized. This was the beginning of the regular giving to missions that has always characterized the school. We have before us the reports from 1878 to 1896, and these show the average missionary contributions from the Sabbath School to have been about \$220 per annum.

Mr. T. W. Nisbet succeeded Mr. Craise in 1877 as superintendent of the School, and continued to act in this capacity until 1897. Mr. Nisbet gave time, energy and devotion to this work. He was an enthusiast in Sabbath School work and did not spare himself. The present Sabbath School building was erected while he was superintendent. The first Sarnia Company, Boys' Brigade, originated with him. While health and strength permitted Mr. Nisbet gave of his best for the moral, physical, and spiritual benefit of the youth in Sarnia.

The first Sarnia Company of the Boys' Brigade, the second of its kind in Canada, was enrolled on the 17th of February, 1890, in connection with St. Andrew's Church. T. W. Nisbet was captain, and James C. Clark and John Brebner, Jr., lieutenants.

Mr. John Cowan, K.C., succeeded Mr. Nisbet in 1898. During Mr. Cowan's term of office, 1898-1904, the Sunday School was