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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHEROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1886.

Sunday-School Topics at the Conferences.

THESE important topics occupy, as they should occupy, a considerable amount of attention at the Annual Conferences. A whole evening is almost always given to a Sunday-school Anniversary, at which stirring addresses are given by active Sunday-school workers. At an early stage of the Conference a Sunday-school Committee is appointed to which all memorials and suggestions as to Sunday-school matters and statistical schedules are referred for their examination and report. No Church in Christendom, we think, records its Sunday-school and other statistics with such fulness and accuracy as the Methodist Church. It has not been possible to collect and tabulate these statistics for the whole Church in time for this issue of the BANNER, but it is gratifying to know that they record a year of great growth and spiritual prosperity.

The Church that most fully looks after the young people committed to its care is the Church

that will most fully mould the future of this land, and in this respect our own Church has not been unmindful of its high calling. It was a surprise to many to be informed by the Rev. Dr. Burwash that the Methodist Church numbers more ministers in its ranks than both the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches together. It is also a remarkable fact, that it has more Sunday-schools and Sunday-school scholars than all the other Protestant Churches together. This fact involves a great responsibility and brings also a great privilege. Thank God the faithful instructions given in the schools are not without their desired and designed effect. We have not yet received the full details from all the Conferences for this year, but for the previous year the entire number of conversions reported in connection with the schools was over 20,000. Those who are thus brought into the Church of God in early life, and are trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, will make better Christians, better workers for the cause of God, more liberal supporters of the missions and enterprises of the Church than those who are brought into that Church after their habits of thought and action are largely stereotyped by long years of neglect of religious interests.

The future for our Church and country is full of hope and promise. Let us be faithful to our opportunities and duties, and by the blessing of God a nobler generation shall come upon the stage of Christian work and worship—a generation in deepest, widest sympathy with all that is grand, and good, and pure, and true—a generation of intensest hostility to all that is evil and vile—a generation pledged against everything that can intoxicate or degrade, or harm or defile. So shall our sons grow up as plants in their youth, so shall our daughters be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace—types of the higher Christian civilization of that day when upon every industry and enterprise and amusement of the age shall be written “Holiness to the Lord.”

Book Notices.

The Chautauqua Movement. By JOHN H. VINCENT. Boston: Chautauqua Press. Pp. 308.

In this book Dr. Vincent gives an account of the greatest educational movement of modern times. The story reads like a romance. From that little lakeside assembly have gone forth moral influences to the ends of the earth. As