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The Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1884.

The Sunday-School Parliament of the Methodist Church.

THIS institution held its Annual Sessions at the beautiful St. Lawrence Central Camp Ground, near Brockville. The grounds are among the most commodious and beautiful that we have anywhere seen. A steep, and rocky cliff rises abruptly from the crystal waters of the river to a height of from fifty to eighty feet. This cliff is completely clothed with a dense mass of the most luxuriant foliage. A little bay furnishes a convenient place for a dock for steamboats and small craft, and the ground rises in successive terraces to the cottages and Assembly Tabernacle. This is one of the largest buildings under one roof, without support or column, in the Dominion. It will seat 2,000 persons, everyone of whom can distinctly hear the speaker.

The Sunday-school Parliament, under the able management of the Rev. S. Card and an

efficient Committee, was a distinguished success. The programme consisted of lectures, addresses, and discussions on Sunday-school topics and cognate subjects. Among those who took part in the several services were the Revs. S. Card, A. B. Chambers, H. F. Bland, Thos. Griffith, W. J. Maxwell, Dr. Sutherland, T. G. Williams, Dr. Gardener, Dr. Carman, Jas. Curtis, Jas. Allen, A. Andrews, W. H. Butt, C. A. Barnes, Esq., Judge Macdonald, W. H. Withrow, and others. One of the most instructive discussions followed the reading of an original and incisive paper, by the Rev. W. Blair, giving four reasons why Sunday-schools should be abolished. The conclusion of the meeting was, that it would be better to remedy their defects and increase their efficiency, than to abolish them. They have come to stay.

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOARD.

Through the courtesy of the management of the Sunday-school Parliament, a whole day was given to the meetings of the Sunday-school Board, consisting of representatives from the five Ontario Conferences. A business session lasted from 9 to 12 and was resumed after the afternoon Lecture. The Rev. A. Andrews gave a very admirable lecture on Normal Class Methods, illustrated by the blackboard. It was felt by the Parliament that one of the great essentials of the time, is to teach the teachers and improve the character of the teaching. To this work, and the general promotion of Sunday-school interests, Bro. Andrews has been set apart this year by the Guelph Conference, and the BANNER will heartily co-operate with his efforts in this respect. He will prepare, for a Teacher's Department in the BANNER, papers on Normal Class Work, for which we bespeak a cordial reception and careful study. Bro. Andrews will also take charge of the Normal Class Work at the Sunday-school Parliament of 1885.

The public meeting of the Board was held in the evening and was very largely attended. Dr. Carman, one of the General Superintendents occupied the chair with characteristic ability, and the meeting was addressed by the Rev. W. H. Butt, C. A. Barnes, Esq., Rev. W. J. Maxwell, and Rev. W. H. Withrow. The following is an abstract of the

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Special prominence has been given to what may be called the missionary operations of the Board, in promoting the establishment of new schools and assisting poor schools in remote and needy neighbourhoods, by means of grants of books and papers from the Sunday-School Aid and Extension Fund. The growth of this Fund, which is sustained by one collection taken up each year in each school, has been very gratifying. During the first four years of its existence its income averaged \$524 per year; during the second four years, \$785 per year. During the last two years the income has averaged \$1,212 per year.