

will be self-supporting. Your grants last year to both of the schools has proved a great blessing. They could not possibly have sustained the interest without those valuable Sunday-school papers. Hope that you will be able to give us the grants. Unless you can the schools cannot possibly be sustained."

A missionary in Newfoundland writes: "Our school is doing well since reception of your papers. The blessings will never be seen in their fullest sense till we reach the *other shore*."

Another superintendent writes: "I hope that you may aid me some way. I feel alone in this work. All the friends are discouraged. But I wish to follow Him who 'never failed or was discouraged'; He will guide and lead."

Supplying just such needs as these, all over the continent, from Labrador to the borders of Alaska, and helping to plant new schools wherever a handful of children can be gathered together, and a loving heart to point them to the Saviour—is the work that the S. S. Aid and Extension Fund is doing. But it needs funds to do this work, and appeals to every school to give one good collection in the year. Even the schools that receive help, no matter how poor, are required to contribute what they can to this Fund.

### Progress of our Sunday-School Periodicals.

The approach of the General Conference naturally leads to a review of the progress of our Sunday-school periodicals. The circulation of those periodicals during the last quadrennium has nearly doubled, the increase being from 103,729 on 30th April, 1882, to 194,074 on 30th April, 1886, or 87%. This is more than three times the increase of the previous quadrennium. The increase of circulation for the year ending March 31st, 1886, was 34,850; on July 31st there was a further increase in the number printed of 65,676, making the entire number printed, 259,750, an increase of 125% since April 30th, 1882. This is at the rate of over thirty-five and a half million a year; over 118,000 a day; and nearly 12,000 per hour. If to this be added the circulation of the *Methodist Magazine*, under the same editorial management, the aggregate circulation is at the rate of over 40,000,000 pages per year; over 133,000 per working day; and over 13,000 per hour.

The Sunday-school periodicals have been successively improved in quality, enlarged in

size, increased in number, and reduced in price, till we believe they are now the cheapest and best papers for the cost in the world. Three new papers have been established during the quadrennium—*Home and School*, *Happy Days*, and *Quarterly Review Service*.

We have now eight distinct periodicals of as many different grades, meeting the varied requirements of our schools. Of these there are 138 distinct issues in the 308 working days of the year, being almost one on each alternate day. The results of this flood of direct religious teaching pouring forth from the press is simply incalculable; only the Great Day shall reveal it. The competition with foreign Sunday-school periodicals, appealing to the patronage of all the denominations and thereby securing an immense circulation, has been very keen. But our own papers, instinct with loyalty to Queen and country, and to the doctrines and institutions of Methodism, are almost entirely displacing in our schools those foreign and irresponsible periodicals which are sometimes hostile to both.

### Donations for Poor Schools.

WE are greatly obliged to the kind friends who so generously send us supplies of second-hand library books as donations for poor schools. By their kindness we have been able to distribute nearly 20,000 volumes to needy schools all over the country, from Newfoundland to British Columbia. We are continually receiving urgent requests for such books, and want all that we can get to supply the demand. At the same time will our friends suffer a word of suggestion. It is useless to send back numbers of the S. S. papers. They do not contain the current lesson, and are generally crumpled. We prefer library books in as good condition as possible. The S. S. Board pay freight on all books sent, and will send new papers to new and poor schools for half price if necessary, or, if they cannot pay that, will send them free.

W. H. WITBROW,  
Secretary Sunday-school Board.

### A Word to Correspondents.

WE beg to repeat our request to correspondents. Please be very particular about giving names and addresses, stating Province and Conference. We often receive requests for