

\$250,000 FOR MISSIONS.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland on "Sunday-School Missionary Societies."

[We beg to call the special attention of Sunday-school Superintendents and officers to the following articles by the Rev. Dr. Sutherland, the indefatigable Missionary Secretary of our Church, and by Mr. L. C. Peake, an energetic Sunday-school worker, connected with the Mission Rooms, on the important subject of Juvenile Missionary Societies. In the present important juncture in our missionary operations, our schools can render important aid to this great cause, with great benefit to themselves and to the Missionary Society. We therefore reprint the excellent remarks of Dr. Sutherland, and a part of the very excellent paper by Mr. Peake; and also the Constitution of the Sunday-school Missionary Societies.—ED. BANNER]

"Some time ago an Association of Methodist Sunday-school Teachers was formed in Toronto, and among the questions that have come before them for discussion, the relation of our Sunday-schools to the Mission work of the Church has held an important place. A special evening was appointed for the consideration of this subject, and Mr. Peake, of the Mission Rooms staff, was requested to prepare a paper. In response to that request, Mr. Peake delivered the address given in part in the following pages.

A committee was appointed to draft a constitution for Sunday-school Missionary Societies, and at a subsequent meeting of the Association, the following form was received and recommended for adoption in the various schools. It is sent forth with the hope that many of our Sunday-schools throughout the connexion will be induced to adopt a similar method of supporting our great missionary movement. No special originality is claimed for this plan: it is simply a combination of what were regarded as the best features of systems already in use, including what is known in England as the 'Blake System.' Doubtless it is better adapted for towns and cities than for country places; but it is believed a large number of our schools might adopt it with great advantage.

"The faithful working out of a plan similar in its leading features to that presented in these pages would insure the following benefits:

"1. The cultivation of a *thorough missionary spirit* among the children of our Sunday-schools.

"2. The raising up of an army of *trained collectors*.

"3. Habits of *systematic giving* to God's cause.

"4. A vast increase in the funds of our Missionary Society.

"5. A guarantee for the healthy growth of our mission work through coming years.

"Collecting books, missionary boxes, etc., etc., can be obtained on application at the Mission Rooms; and the General Secretary will be glad to hear from Ministers and Sunday-school superintendents who may desire to give the method a trial.

"A. SUTHERLAND."

"P.S.—The suggested constitution has been adopted by a number of schools, and always with good results where faithfully carried out. One notable instance may be given, that of the Yonge Street Sabbath-school, Yorkville, Mr. J. T. Moore, Superintendent, with about 150 scholars, where, by the adoption of the two cents a week plan, the noble sum of three hundred dollars was collected and paid into the Missionary Society during the first year after the adoption of this method.

"A. S."

Our Sunday-Schools in their Relation to Missions.

BY LEWIS C. PEAKE.

I have taken some pains to obtain information in regard to several Sunday-school Missionary Societies—as to their modes of operation, the benefits derived therefrom, and the financial results. As far as my knowledge extends, the system has been brought to the highest state of perfection in Montreal. I find the plan to be generally as follows: Each school is formed into a society, electing a president, one or two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. Each class in the school elects quarterly a secretary—sometimes the teacher, but usually a scholar—whose special duty it is to see that the collection is taken up and entered in a little book, somewhat similar to an ordinary class-book; the money, in an envelope or purse, handed with the book to the treasurer, who enters the class totals similarly into a larger book, the amount being announced to the school, compared with the corresponding Sunday of the previous year. Quarterly meetings of the society are held, usually presided over by one of the scholars, the programme consisting of the announcement of the amounts contributed by each class during the quarter, music, recitations, an occasional lecture, etc.; and lastly, the annual gathering of all the societies on New Year's Day.

Many schools provide a silk or satin banner, with the name of the school thereon. This is placed at the end of the seat occupied by the class, during the previous month, has contributed the largest amount, and is, of course, liable to change every month. The class so distinguished is known as the *Banner Class*. Where