

Take the question of expense. This is twofold. To begin with, there is the small School which has the idea that somehow it exists to get money for congregational and missionary purposes, and cuts down expenses which are necessary for its own work as a School, in order to heap up treasures for these objects.

Even, however, granting the undeniable importance of training the scholars in missionary giving, it must always be borne in mind that its first duty, as a School, is to give instruction in the Word of God. No expense should be spared which is essential to this object.

A second form of the expense excuse is, that, in reality, the School does not seem to be able to afford it. Often this is a mere supposition. For instance, in the Primary Department, the teacher, if it is absolutely necessary, can get along with the Scholar's Leaflet and the Teacher's Quarterly.

In other words, where expense will not allow it, not all the parts of the teaching paraphernalia need be adopted. Most small Schools, however, can face the whole expense, if the scholars are trained to give systematically, and are asked to raise the amount, class by class, that the lesson material costs for each class. Where that is not possible, the church may bear part of the cost.

The third drawback is the division of classes. Again and again, it seems to be necessary to repeat that any School with only three classes can adopt these Lessons. In those mission Schools where there is but one class ranging from 8 or 9 to 15 or 16 years of age, the Junior or Intermediate Graded Lessons would more likely meet the need than the Uniform Lessons. The small School should have at least the Primary and Junior Graded Lessons for the two younger classes, even if the others continue to use the Uniform Lessons.

## Two New Year's Rallies

1. IN MONTREAL

BY JAMES R. LOWDEN

It may be of interest to readers of the *TEACHERS MONTHLY* to know something of an anniversary in connection with Sunday Schools which has been observed in Montreal for now over sixty years, and is still enjoyed and looked forward to with great pleasure from year to year. This is the gathering of Sunday Schools on New Year's day morning in Montreal.

Montreal is not the only place such gatherings are held, nor are the Presbyterians the only ones who have them. In that city the Methodists, Congregationalists and Baptists have each their own gathering, and the cities of Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton have also theirs.

In earlier years in Montreal, the several denominations met as one, but as their numbers grew this could not be continued for want of space. In fact, at present the Presbyterians have been considering the advisability of having two gatherings, for, though Erskine Church with its extension is capable of taking in 3,000 children and teachers, more would come but for want of space. However, the teachers have unanimously voted to have but one gathering, though crowded, rather than two, feeling that more or less inspiration would be lost by dividing.

The gathering is under the auspices of the Presbyterian Sabbath School Association, and the meeting is supposed to occupy not much

over an hour. The doors are opened at 10 a.m. and the meeting at 10.30.

At ten o'clock and sometimes before, sounds from the street tell us of the arrival of some of the Schools. Horns and trumpets are being blown and the shouts of merry children tell us that "The King Fisher,"—a large sleigh drawn by four and sometimes six horses—has arrived and 50 or 60 children are getting out of the sleigh and coming to the door, where they are met by two or more of their teachers who take charge of them and take them to the place allotted to them in the building. These are scarcely in their places when more sleighs arrive, also bands of children with their teachers who have come by the street cars. All is bustle and excitement till they are all in their places, when the printed programme is given to each present, and at 10.30 the chairman calls the meeting to order and gives out the first hymn,—often, All hail the power of Jesus' name,—then a short prayer, reading a psalm, singing, etc.

The chairman, in his opening remarks, wishes his audience "A Happy New Year," which is responded to by about three thousand voices in no uncertain sound. As we have not only English, but French, Italian and Chinese Schools, we have a special hymn for each in its own language. We are also often favored by the Pointe-aux-Trembles brass band, as we usually have about one hundred