

and in all our schools a strongly-worded pledge against the twin evils of intemperance and tobacco is tendered the scholars, with the striking result that in three years over 84,000 signatures have been obtained to that pledge. The Sunday-school periodicals of our Church, reaching a quarter of a million of scholars, are also saturated through and through with temperance principles.

But something more than this is needed. The instruction given in the Sunday-school must embrace in its scope the great doctrines of religion in all its aspects as well as temperance; and four hours or eight hours a year is far too little for this latter important subject. It should be taught every week in the day-schools. The Women's Christian Temperance Union of the United States has been urging this subject on the several State Legislatures, with the result that in some thirty different States and Territories temperance instruction forms a regular part of the curriculum of the public schools. This result has not been secured without great effort and in spite of the apathy and inertia of legislatures and the active opposition of the liquor interest.

The Canadian branch of this Union is endeavouring to secure similar legislation in this Dominion. From all we can learn, we think that they have not received the encouragement they deserve in this effort. It is not merely in the high schools, which are attended by but one-tenth of the school population, that such instruction is needed, but in the lower grades where the great proportion of the scholars are found. Instruction in the physical, economic and moral consequences of the use of alcohol can be made sufficiently elementary to suit all grades. It is at least as important as a good many other things that are taught in the schools. Let parents and school trustees, and the pulpit, and the press, emphatically demand the authorization of such instruction, and the educational authorities of the several provinces will not venture long to refuse it. And this being granted, what a potent lever will it prove for raising public sentiment to a higher level on this subject. In ten years these children will be the men and women, the voters, and moulders of public opinion.

And when a true conception of the appalling moral and physical ruin wrought by strong drink is enfolded in the young brain of the country, the knell of the traffic is rung. Drinking shall be under ban, and when the present

generation of toppers shall have passed away, there will come in their stead a generation of men and women who know not the accursed habit, and who are too well instructed as to its baneful consequences ever to acquire it. Let us warn and save the children that we may save the world.

Fifth International Sunday-School Convention.

JUST on the eve of going to press, we have received the announcement of this Convention. We can only give the substance of it in this number. The Convention will be held in the city of Chicago on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1887. The sessions will be held in Armory D, which will hold 5,000 persons—three sessions a day. The general programme is threefold: 1, Ingathering, or the Sunday-School Missionary and Mission work; 2, Upbuilding, or the work of Sunday-School Instruction; 3, Uniting, or the work of Sunday-School Organization. No further details of programme are yet announced. Each State or Province is entitled to one delegate to every 40,000 of population—over 100 for Canada, nearly 50 for Ontario—delegates to be chosen by the State or Provincial interdenominational (not denominational) Sunday-school associations. Delegates only will be entitled to take part in the business of the Convention, and will be entitled to entertainment from Tuesday evening, May 31st, to Saturday morning, June 4th, if names of such delegates are received by Chicago Committee of Arrangements by May 25th, J. M. Hitchcock, Secretary, 148 Madison Street, Chicago. Reduced hotel—\$3 to \$1 per day—will be secured for delegates and others, and reserved seats for the whole series of meetings can be secured for \$1.50. If possible, reduced railway rates will be secured.

Sunday-school organizations in all lands are requested to send statistics and reports to E. Payson Porter, 1031 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, U. S., as soon as possible. The "call" is signed by B. F. Jacobs, Chairman of the Executive Committee. It is hoped that there will be a large contingent of Canadian Delegates. With reference to the appointment of Ontario Delegates, correspondence should be had with J. J. Woodhouse, Esq., 206 Church Street, Toronto; or L. C.