

are increasing in number and efficiency and that much good is being accomplished through this agency." And also that the number of schools closing during the winter months is diminishing, and the hope is expressed that ere long all the schools will be "overgreen."

It strongly urges a "consideration of the necessity of greater attention to Systematic Bible study among adult members and adherents of our congregations." The ideal Sabbath School of the Halifax Presbytery's Committee is "the whole church young and old at work in the study of the Bible." Regret is expressed at the comparative fewness of minister's Bible classes.

The excellent report of Truro Presbytery advocates a system of Sabbath School supervision similar to that in practice in Halifax Presbytery, and gives similar testimony to that given by the Committee of Halifax Presbytery as to the need of classes for adults in connection with our Sabbath School work.

The recommendations of Pictou Presbytery's report are, "that earnest efforts be made to keep all the schools within our bounds open during the whole year." "That the records prepared by the Assembly's Sabbath School Committee be introduced into all our schools," and "that as far as practicable congregations bear the necessary expense of the Sabbath School, that the contributions of the scholars may be devoted wholly to missions."

St. John Presbytery recommends the adoption of the Assembly Registers, regular contributions to the mission schemes, and that persistent efforts should be made to keep all the schools open the whole year.

The reports of the other Presbyteries are almost wholly statistical and contain no recommendations.

Most of the reports record progress. That there is general and continuous progress the annual Assembly statistics plainly evidence. Comparing the statistics for our Synod given in to the late Assembly at Halifax, with those given in to the Assembly at Winnipeg last year we find an increase recorded of 200 officers and teachers and of 843 scholars. Comparing the report of this year with that given in to the Toronto Assembly of 1876, the first Assembly report, we find that there has been in our Sabbath Schools of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and

Nova Scotia an increase of 1,316 officers and teachers and 5780 scholars, and of 8502 in the number of volumes in the Sabbath School libraries. The number of officers and teachers in the schools our Synod as reported to the last general Assembly 3274, of scholars 26,965 and of volumes in the Sabbath School libraries 38,680.

These figures are, as Presbyterian figures generally are, under the truth. But we have no reason to believe that they are as far under it as such figures as these should be for our Synod. The number of families reported to Assembly as connected with the churches in the Presbyteries of our Synod was 22,354. We should at least expect an average of two per family in our Sabbath School classes, which would be 44,708. Of that number we fall nearly 18,000 short. But when we remember that the families reported as connected with our own and our sister Synod of these Maritime Provinces in the official church reports published nearest to the time of the taking of the last Dominion census would need to average something over eleven members each to account for the Presbyterian population according to that census, we have reason to believe that had we our 44000 instead of only 27,000 reported as enrolled in our Sabbath Schools, there would still be some thousands of children belonging to families claiming to be Presbyterians still unaccounted for in our reports, and this without taking into account at all the adult membership of our schools as it is or as it ought to be.

"Children are an heritage of the Lord."

"As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them."

Happy our church has a right to be, but happy only as she honestly remembers that the children under her care are "an heritage of the Lord," and cares for them as such, loyally and practically giving heed to the great teachers command "Feed my lambs."

The children of this generation will be the men and women of the next. In their most impressionable years, while they most easily respond to influence it is the church-duty to take advantage of her privilege. On her efficiently doing so her future prosperity to a great degree depends. We are taking this fact into consideration in