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Home and School

Rev. W. H. WYTHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MARCH 12, 1887.

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FOR MISSIONS

FOR THE YEAR 1887.

REMEMBER

THE

S. S. Aid Collection

ON

REVIEW SUNDAY, MARCH 27.

THIS collection, it will be remembered, is ordered by the General Conference to be taken up in each and every Sunday-school in the Methodist Church; and the Review Sunday in September is recommended as the best time for taking it up. If any of the schools have not taken it up last September they are especially requested not to fail to do so on March 27th. This fund is increasing in usefulness, and does a very large amount of good. Almost all schools comply with the Discipline in taking it up. In a few cases, however, it is neglected. It is very desirable that every school should fall into line. Even schools so poor as to need help themselves are required to comply with the Discipline in this respect to be entitled to receive aid from the fund. Superintendents of circuits and Superintendents of schools will kindly see that in every case the collection is taken up. It should, when taken up, be given in charge of the Superintendent of the circuit, to be forwarded to the District Financial Secretaries, who shall transmit the same to the Conference Sunday-school Secretary, who shall in turn remit to Warring Kennedy, Esq., Toronto, the lay-treasurer of the fund. (See Discipline, §§ 354-356).

Restoration of Lesson Notes in "Home and School."

THE omission of these lesson notes was against the judgment of the Editor, and was only granted in deference to a memorial from the Niagara Conference. There have, however, been so many complaints and protests against their omission, and so many cancellations of orders on that account, that we deem it right to restore them. We are anxious to meet the wishes of all the schools, if possible—and by far the greater number desire the lesson notes. The following is a specimen of the letters of remonstrance we have received:—

"It seems strange that any body of Christian workers familiar with Sabbath-school work should regard the space occupied by the lessons as wasted. As a school we have regarded the lessons as an important part of the paper,—being put in without the Scripture readings necessitated the use of the Bible also, which we regard as important, and are endeavouring to get every scholar to possess a Bible of his or her own, and to bring it to school."

We are glad that these lesson notes are so prized, and are extremely desirous that they should be thoroughly studied. They are entirely different from those given in *Pleasant Hours*. We are resolved that no effort on our part shall be spared to make our Sunday-school papers, which hitherto have been received with very great favour, increasingly useful and attractive. And we can think of few things more useful than the condensed notes on the lessons published from week to week.

Home Reading Course for Young People.

LOCAL CIRCLES.

IN order to carry out as efficiently as possible the directions of the General Conference, the Committee urgently solicit the hearty co-operation of all our Ministers and Sunday-school Superintendents and Teachers in organizing, in connection with all our congregations and Sunday-schools, local Home Reading Circles.

The Committee recommend the following form of constitution for local circles:—

1. *Name*.—The ——— Home Reading Circle.

2. *Membership*.—All young people who will agree to faithfully pursue the course of reading laid down by the Central Committee are eligible for membership.

3. *Officers*.—The officers of the Local Circles shall be:—

(a) A President, who shall preside over the meetings, and shall have the general oversight over the work of the Circle, and shall give such aid and instruction in the course of reading as he may deem necessary.

(b) A Vice-President, who, in the absence of the President, shall perform his duties.

(c) A Secretary, or Secretary-Treasurer,



AN ANTELOPE.

urer, who shall keep a record of membership and business of the Circle.

The officers shall be elected at the first meeting of each "Circle" year.

4. Where practicable, regular meetings may be held as frequently as may be agreed upon, for review and for instruction in the course of reading.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening with devotional exercises.

2. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.

3. Proposals for membership, and admission of new members.

4. Conversation on the specified subjects of reading, and, where necessary and practicable, instruction therein.

5. Questions and answers.

6. Miscellaneous business.

Antelopes.

THE different kinds of antelopes form a very large family. Naturalists enumerate twenty-nine species in all. The antelope constitutes a link between the goat and the deer. They are most numerous in Asia and Africa. None of them except the two species, chamois and saiga, are found in Europe.

The American continent possesses but two representatives of the antelope family. These are the so-called Rocky Mountain sheep or goat—the true antelope—and the prongbuck or cabrit of the North American plains. The Rocky Mountain antelope, possessing a coat of long woolly hair, is closely related to the chamois of Europe; and in this form, as well as in the prongbuck, the connection between the antelopes and the goats may be traced. The prongbuck species present a singular exception to other members of the great antelope family, in that the sheath or covering

of the horns of the male is developed and shed annually. The female has no horns, and is a very pretty creature, as our picture shows. The chief home of the prongbuck is the prairie lands of Central America, and its northern limit would appear to be about the fifty-third degree of north latitude.

Antelopes chiefly inhabit hilly countries, though some reside in the plains; and some species form herds of two or three thousand, while others keep in small troops of five or six. These animals are elegantly formed, active, restless, timid, shy, and astonishingly swift, running with vast bounds, and springing or leaping with surprising agility; they frequently stop for a moment in the midst of their course to gaze at their pursuers, and then resume their flight. The greyhound, the fleetest of dogs, is usually outrun by them, and the sportsman is obliged to have recourse to the aid of the falcon, which is trained to the work, for seizing on the animal and impeding its motion, that the dogs may thus have an opportunity of overtaking it. In India and Persia a sort of leopard is made use of in the chase; and this animal takes its prey, not by swiftness of foot, but by its astonishing springs, which are similar to that of the antelope; and yet, if the leopard should fail in its first attempt, the game escapes. The fleetness of this animal has been proverbial in the countries which it inhabits, from the earliest time, 2 Sam. 2:18; 1 Chr. 12:8; as also the beauty of its eyes; so that to say, "You have the eyes of a gazelle," is to pay a high compliment.

A YEAR of pleasure passes like a floating breeze, but a moment of misfortune seems an age of pain.