

SUNDAY SCHOOL BARRER

for
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Eighth International Sunday-school Convention.

FEW movements of modern times enlist more active sympathy than the Sunday-school work of Canada and the United States. According to the latest statistics of these two countries and Newfoundland a total of 11,695,207 (1893) teachers and scholars are engaged in studying every Sunday the same portions of Holy Scripture. The only common nexus or organization of this great army is the International Sunday-school Convention which meets once in three years. Its last session was at St. Louis, the one before in Pittsburg, the previous one in Chicago, and before that in other leading cities including one in Toronto in 1881. At St. Louis an earnest request was made to have the convention at the city of Montreal, but the city of Boston also put in such an earnest claim that it was decided to hold it at the Hub City. This meeting is one of special importance in that the committee, by whom the International Sunday-school Lessons are selected will be this year appointed. These gentlemen render their valuable services without compensation.

The International system is more fully obtained on this continent than in Europe, although a very large number of schools in Great Britain, and a less number on the continent, also adopt the International system.

The Lesson Committee represents the principal Protestant denominations of Great Britain and America. They have nothing whatever to do with the preparation of the lesson notes and comments. They merely select for a period of six or seven years the Scripture lessons. The denominational Sunday-school editors and pub-

lishing houses prepare their own notes and comments for their own Sunday-school periodicals and commentaries.

The literature that is thus created is of enormous volume and of very great value. The *Sunday-school Times* at Philadelphia, the *Sunday-school Chronicle*, of London, are interdenominational organs of very large circulation, and employing high-class talent in their preparation. The publications of the great denominational houses, the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Anglican, Congregational and other societies, are of still vaster volume. They are of every grade from large illustrated octavos to cheap fly leaves which fall thick as leaves in autumn. They are adapted to every need from the wealthy city school to the remotest hamlet in the country, and are a great unifying force organizing into one grand army the schools scattered over two hemispheres.

As these pages pass through the press the International Convention is in session at Boston. We will furnish a concise report of its proceedings in our next number.

Opening Exercises.

THE opening exercises are no small part of the influences that go to make up the power of the Sunday-school as a whole. The first five minutes of a Sunday-school ordinarily decide the impressions of the session for the day. It behooves the superintendent, therefore, to consider well what is said, and how it is said, at the beginning. There is, in our opinion, nothing that so solemnizes the school and puts the teachers and pupils into a reverent and devotional mood as a strict observance of the regular Order of Service for the opening of the school. If you have not tried it, do so, and in all probability you will continue the practice.—*Our Young Folks.*