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W. H. WITTHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1883.

Sunday-School Interests at the Conferences.

MUCH time was given to these important interests at the three Western Conferences, which we had the pleasure to attend, and we presume also at the Eastern Conferences. Vigorous and efficient Conference Sunday-school Committees, composed of practical and zealous Sunday-school workers, held several sessions, revised the Conference Sunday-school work, and brought in important reports, recording remarkable progress and making important suggestions. The Editor of the BANNER was kindly accorded the privilege of meeting two of these committees, and taking counsel with them as to the best method of promoting Sunday-school work. Time did not permit him to meet the third. We were greatly

pleased with the deepening and broadening interest exhibited in everything connected with this important department of our Church operations. Never were the statistical reports so full, so accurate, so encouraging. The number of schools and officers is largely increased. The amounts of money raised for school and missionary purposes, and for the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund are also largely in advance. Many thousands of scholars are being recorded as being enrolled in Temperance Societies. And best of all, by the blessing of God upon the labours of the teachers and officers, many hundreds of conversions are reported in the schools, and many thousands of scholars are meeting in class. As soon as we receive the Sunday-school statistics from all the Conferences we shall tabulate them and present the results for the encouragement of our readers.

The Sunday-school Editor was very cordially received at all the Conferences which he had the pleasure of visiting. Many testimonies were received of the appreciation of the improved character of the Sunday-school periodicals, and of the great benefit that is being done by the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund, in helping poor schools and planting new ones in places where none had previously existed. As one result of the increased circulation of our own periodicals, the London Conference alone reports a decrease of 4,000 in the circulation of foreign periodicals, their place being taken by our own connexional papers. The most cordial co-operation has been given by the ministers on the circuits, or this gratifying result could not have been reached; and with the continuation of that co-operation still greater progress in the future may be anticipated.

The important subject of Methodist Union occupied much time. The discussion was, with scarce an exception, of a very frank and brotherly character. Although differences of opinion were manifested, the bond of brotherhood was unbroken. The result of the vote was recognized as the voice of God bidding us "go forward," and His guiding hand, we are confident, will lead His Church into a field of enlarged usefulness and prosperity,

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