

## THE CATECHISM.

It is gratifying to find that increased attention is being given to the study of that admirable compendium of Christian doctrine, the Methodist Catechism. Although the returns in this respect are not complete, in eight of the Conferences 33,486 children and youth are reported as studying the Catechism. Superintendents and teachers are earnestly urged to do all they can to promote, as much as in their power, the study of those Christian doctrines that make wise unto salvation. These Catechism lessons find a place in all our Sunday-school Lesson papers, and circulate to the extent of over 200,000 copies every Lord's-day.

## FOUNDING NEW SCHOOLS.

It is safe to say, that never in the history of Methodism in this land has the founding of new Sunday-schools been so actively and successfully prosecuted as during the past year. The brethren on remote circuits and in destitute neighbourhoods among the fishing villages of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia—amid the pine forests of the St. John and the Ottawa; in the wilds of Muskoka; upon the prairies of Manitoba and the far West; and among the mining settlements of British Columbia—have been diligent in planting these nurseries of piety and nuclei of future Churches. In this work they have been greatly helped by the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. There is no way in which its aid can be so profitably employed. Many schools established by its assistance soon become self-supporting, and in turn contribute to the planting of new schools, in still newer neighbourhoods. Brethren are urged to freely seek its aid, and such aid, to the limit of its ability, will be freely given.

Notwithstanding the growth of our Sunday-schools, there are a very large number of appointments in connection with which no Sunday-schools are yet organized. In some cases there are union schools, where no schools of separate denominations can be maintained. But where there are no such schools the assistance of the ministers is urgently solicited, that in every place where there is Methodist preaching there may also be a Methodist Sunday-school. It is in helping this work that the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund has been most useful in the past, and may be expected to be increasingly useful in the future. If brethren will only organize, in every place where even a handful of children can be gathered, a school under Methodist management, the Society will grant liberal aid in the way of Sunday-school papers and lesson helps.

(Signed) W. H. WITHROW,  
Secretary of S. S. Board.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

The following extracts from a few out of many hundreds of letters received by the Secretary of the Board, will show the large amount of good that is being done by these grants to poor schools, and the thankful appreciation with which they are received.

A missionary in British Columbia writes: "You will perhaps think that we are asking a great deal from the Sunday-school Aid Fund, but we could not start or keep these small schools going without this aid. I always start a Sunday-school whenever I can get a teacher and a dozen scholars. In this country there are a great many of the older people who care nothing for religion. By the Sunday-school we reach the children, and through the children we reach the parents. Such papers as the *Pleasant Hours* or *Home and School* carry the truth into homes otherwise inaccessible. I have seen many Sunday-school papers, but none equal to our own."

Another brother writes: "You did us great service here this year by making us a grant of papers, etc. We had about fifty conversions in the school. The school more than doubled during the year. Now as the people are poor, you will confer a great boon if you can continue the same number of papers, etc., next year. Please consider our case and help us."

A missionary in Newfoundland, sending \$9.50 from his scholars, says: "It would be a great kindness if you would continue the grant for another year. I can assure you the papers are greatly appreciated, and eagerly sought after, not only by our own people, but by others of other Churches. If you will kindly continue the grant I will be responsible for the like amount during another year."

Another missionary in Newfoundland writes: "It will interest you to know that the scholars make a collection of dried fish to pay for the papers."

Another in New Brunswick says: "The people are very poor, and the Missionary Society is truly doing important work for God in this and other outlying places. I am sure our Sunday-school papers are doing no small work for Methodism and Christianity within the bounds of this Conference."

A missionary in Labrador writes: "During the winter a considerable number of Sunday-school papers have been distributed in the homes of this people. The children have been encouraged to learn the lessons, and by the help of the parents I have had the pleasure of seeing the boys and girls, in many instances, go through the questions at the end of the lessons with remarkable correctness. The people during the long winter evenings need something to read, and if your readers could only have seen the delight manifested when the papers were being handed round the 'tills' by your missionary they would never forget it. We have no schools nor churches as yet, and as the work is from house to house, it is of vast importance that our periodicals, etc., be freely circulated."

A missionary near the Rocky Mountains, who had just started three new schools—one of them forty miles away—writes thus: "If the people were able to furnish the schools with papers, etc., I would be the last one to call on the Sunday-school Fund to aid us, but they are not. I find the other Churches are doing all