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The Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHEROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1883.

The Work of the Sunday-School Board.

ABOUT once a month the Executive of the Board are called together by the Secretary, who reads the applications and letters, and then the Committee make as liberal grants as its finances will allow, and the necessities of the case seem to require. Many of the letters are very interesting. We take the liberty of quoting from a couple of them from the remote East. One brother writes:—

"Many thanks for the papers so kindly sent us during the past year. We all like them very much. They certainly are the best that can be had for Sabbath-school work. Several children of other denominations are attending our School for the purpose of obtaining our nice papers.

I send you a small order, the best we can do at present, as times are hard here, our ship-building having failed, and many of the husbands and fathers being absent in the States, trying to earn a pittance for their families."

Another says:—

"In sending in this application, I thought it best to send a few words relating to the condition of the School on this Circuit. We have been trying to make the School interesting, but have been many times so sensible of failure in this respect as to be almost discouraged. Want of books, etc., has been a great cause of this. After receiving the circular from the Executive Committee of the S. S. Board, I stated at the School that we might get some papers if we would try to help ourselves, and appointed the next Sabbath to receive their gifts toward this object. Although the amount is small, it is large for those who gave it, as the people here are quite poor. We have, as you see by answers on the other side, thirty-six scholars, and hope soon to have more. We should like to have got some books, but there is no way of getting them here now, as there is but little communication with other places, the mail being, part of the winter, carried on foot."

Many similar applications are received. The new paper, HOME AND SCHOOL, is very highly commended—very many single subscriptions are received for it, and in many places it is the only Methodist or religious paper the people can afford to take. The connexional intelligence, and portraits and life sketches of connexional leaders are much approved, and their continuation is requested. We shall endeavour to give additional portraits.

The Dominion Hymnal.

THE new Sunday-school Hymnal is now ready. It contains 302 hymns. We consider it the best book, for its designed purpose, with which we are acquainted. The Rev. Dr. Sanderson has bestowed a great deal of labour on the book, and to him is due its admirable arrangement and the exceedingly appropriate mottoes or texts for each hymn. We quote the following remarks of the preface, which is also from his graceful pen:—

"A great deal of time has been spent in the preparation of this small volume of Sacred Song for Sunday-schools throughout the Dominion. It is the joint product of earnest and experienced workers, both clerical and lay, in the Sunday-school department of Christian effort. Not less than ten thousand hymns have been examined by the committee to which this work was committed; and it would have been to them an easier and much more satisfactory task to prepare a much larger volume, could they have felt justified in so doing.

"To keep within reasonable limits; to introduce a sufficient number of new hymns, and yet retain a fair proportion of old ones, dear to many hearts; to provide for the more thoughtful,