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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1886.

On the Threshold of 1886.

DEAR reader, you will receive this number of the BANNER on the last Sunday in 1885, and will study its lessons for the first Sunday of 1886. It is a link between the Old Year and the New. As we stand on the threshold of the future, before we lift the latch to enter in, let us supplicate God's aid and blessing. We know not what the future hath in store of joy or sorrow, of weal or woe. We know not what a day or an hour, much less what a year, shall bring forth. Let us, therefore, trustfully put our hand in God's hand, and implore that His presence may go with us and give us rest. If He go with us, of whom or of what shall we be afraid? Come life or come death, come joy or come sorrow, if God be with us, all will be well. Let us work with renewed energy, for another year has passed, and we have a year's less time to labour for the best of Masters in the most glorious of causes. May the year on which we

are entering be the holiest, the happiest, the most useful and successful New Year that ever we have known.

Our Sunday-Schools and Missionary Work.

We think that great benefit would accrue to our Sunday-schools by becoming more deeply interested in our missionary operations, and great advantage to the Missionary Society from the hearty sympathy and active co-operation of our schools. We observe that at the Missionary meetings in England the Sunday-school children take an important and prominent part. At the great anniversary at Exeter Hall, London, five hundred Sunday-school children occupied places on the platform and by their admirable singing added greatly to the success of the meeting. We would greatly like to see something of that sort introduced in Canada. Our missionary meetings would then be invested with greater interest; young and old would then look forward to them with keener anticipation; and the attendance and success would be greatly increased.

Some of our schools are organized into a sort of Missionary Society of their own. Each class has its missionary box; to the one raising most missionary money is awarded a banner, and keen is the rivalry for the coveted honour. At the anniversary meeting the boxes are presented by the children and the money counted, and intense is the interest felt on the occasion and great the applause accompanying the presentation of the banner. Apart from the financial advantage to the Society, there is a great moral benefit to the school. The children grow up in the habit of working for the cause of God and in intelligent sympathy with Christian missions. Could not more of our schools adopt some such method?

Peaceful Thoughts is a pretty little oblong book, with illustrated texts for each day in the month, printed in blue, purple and gold, and a short poem and a number of pictures printed in colours. Price 35 cts. S. R. Briggs, Toronto.

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