

"God is Light, and in Him is no Darkness."

BY THOMAS BINNEY.

ETERNAL Light! eternal Light!
How pure the soul must be
When plac'd within thy searching sight,
It shrinks not, but with calm delight
Can live, and look on thee!

The spirits that surround thy throne
May bear the burning bliss;
But that is surely theirs alone,
Since they have never, never known
A fallen world like this.

O! how shall I, whose native sphere
Is dark, whose mind is dim,
Before the Ineffable appear,
And on my naked spirit bear
That uncreated beam?

There is a way for man to rise
To that sublime abode;
An offering and a sacrifice,
A Holy Spirit's energies,
An Advocate with God--

These, these prepare us for the sight
Of holiness above;
The sons of ignorance and might
May dwell in the eternal light
Through the eternal love.



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

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 21, 1889.

REMEMBER

THE

S. S. AID COLLECTION

ON

REVIEW SUNDAY,

SEPTEMBER 29TH.

This collection, it will be remembered, is ordered by the General Conference to be taken up in each and every Sunday-school in the Methodist Church; and the Review Sunday, in September, is recommended as the best time for taking it up. This fund is increasing in usefulness, and does a very large amount of good. Almost all the schools comply with the Discipline in taking it up. In a few cases, however, it is neglected. It is very desirable that every school should fall into line. Even schools so poor as to need help themselves are required to comply with the Discipline in this

respect, to be entitled to receive aid from the fund. Superintendents of Circuits and Superintendents of Schools will kindly see that—in every case—the collection is taken up.

It should, when taken up, be given in charge of the Superintendent of the Circuit, to be forwarded to the District Financial Secretaries, who shall transmit the same to the Conference Sunday-school Secretary, who shall, in turn, remit to Warring Kennedy, Esq., Toronto, the Lay Treasurer of the fund.

The claims on this fund are increasing faster than the fund. We need a large increase this year to even partially meet the many applications made. Over four hundred new schools have been started in the last three years by means of this fund. No fund of this comparatively small amount is doing more good.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

The following are extracts from a few only out of several hundreds of letters received by the Secretary of the Sunday-school Board, showing the nature of the operations of the S. S. Aid Fund, and the character of the benefits it confers. It will be observed that these schools are doing all they can to help themselves and to pay back part or the whole of the grant given by the S. S. Board:—

A missionary in Manitoba writes: "Many thanks for your assistance; we trust the day is not far distant when we shall return the amount with good interest to the S. S. Aid Fund. God bless you in your good work; many will thank him in eternity for what they have received through your kind assistance."

A faithful layman in Muskoka writes: "I am thankful that God is doing a good work for the people here, and also our Sabbath-school is reviving. I have heard no preacher since last December, three months before. We get them to visit us four or five times a year."

Another Newfoundland missionary writes: "The papers are read and appreciated in the midst of gross darkness and widespread poverty, and are doing good work for God and Methodism."

A minister in Cape Breton writes: "Our school here is a particularly needy one. Very often the children are kept from Sunday-school from the fact that they are too poor to get proper clothing to wear. Most of the homes are utterly destitute of reading for young minds."

A missionary in Nova Scotia writes: "Our little Sabbath-school in this place is increasing nicely and doing a good work. Friends said it was no use to try a Methodist school in this scattered and divided section, but my good wife took hold of it and has succeeded wonderfully. The papers have helped largely."

"Render Unto God the Things that are God's."

WHAT things are God's? Our money is his. It is ours only as his stewards. It is his by supreme lordship over us and over it.

"But I acquired it by hard work and skill."

Who gave you the power of endurance, health, strength, and ability? Were not these endowments from God? Is he not, therefore, entitled to the income from their use?

Recently, a very wealthy man candidly stated that the bulk of his fortune came through a favourable conjunction of affairs wholly unplanned and unexpected by him; that it was through no superior ability or far-sightedness on his part that he became rich. This is true of many. Providence has favoured them. Has not God given them hundreds of the sands or millions to be used for him in this time when the resources of our missionary societies are overtaxed to meet the enormous demands upon them?

Rich man, whose is that money which you hold? God's.

What are you doing with your Lord's money? Are you spending large sums freely for your own pleasure, and giving small sums grudgingly for religious work for human souls, and the glory of God?

What right have you to heap up millions in this manner, when the gift by you of even half a million would so wondrously help on the work of the world's evangelization?

Do you need any more than you have acquired?

Why can you not resolve, as some other good and most noble men have done, namely: "To give away your entire annual income, above a moderate sum for living expenses? Why not? The world will be made better, and you will be a happier man, than to continue selfishly hoarding for the sake of being reckoned a rich man among your fellows. Are you "rich toward God?"

"Render unto God the things that are God's!"