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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1896.

Good as the Best, Cheap as the Cheapest.

ONE of the most interesting features of the late International Sunday-school Convention at Boston was the exhibit of Sunday-school literature, embracing lesson helps, Sunday-school magazines and periodicals. The great Sunday-school publishing houses of the continent were represented by handsomely displayed exhibits of their best products of the press. These occupied nearly the whole of the ground floor of the great "Tremont Temple." They were a magnificent demonstration of the profound interest felt in this great evangelistic and educative work, of the enterprise and energy of the publishers, of the great amount of capital and skill employed in their production, and of the enormous circulation of this literature, instinct with the very spirit of the Gospel, and conveying religious teachings of infinite moment. These countless printed pages are scattered "thick as the autumnal leaves that strew the brooks of Vallombrosa," and like the leaves of the Tree of Life, are for the healing of the nations.

It was the testimony of competent observers,

that for excellence of printing, beauty of illustration, quantity and quality of lesson notes and comments, and striking economy of price, the Sunday-school publications of the Methodist Church in Canada, were not surpassed by any of the great publishing houses. Indeed, it was asserted that no such value was given for the money in any paper as in *Onward*.

The past year has been one of the most successful in the history of our periodicals. In almost every one, there has been marked increase in circulation. Indeed, part of the time the presses have been running overtime, as is the case almost every season, to print extra editions of the papers required to meet the growing demand.

FURTHER ENLARGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.

The Methodist motto of our publishing house is "To go on to perfection." The energetic Book Steward, not satisfied with past progress, has determined to make another stride forward. Although the establishment was employing twenty-one presses, and running overtime frequently, sometimes all night, still it was unable to keep up with the increase of its publications. An additional press-room has, therefore, been built, with all modern improvements, containing three large new presses, of the latest and best pattern, which will turn out an increased amount of work of still better character than that heretofore published. These changes furnish facilities for enlarging and greatly improving the quality of our Sunday-school periodicals.

Onward will be enlarged in size, printed on heavier paper, and otherwise improved in quality, without any increase in price. The lesson notes, illustrations, and poems, throwing light upon the text, will be maintained as heretofore. It will also have serial stories and other attractive articles, without abatement of interest.

In *Pleasant Hours* the improvement will be still more marked. Its pages will be enlarged to the present size of *Onward*, and it will be printed on heavier paper, with superior press work.

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL BANNER will continue to hold its place in the very fore-front of the lesson helps of the world. It, too, will be so enlarged as to give an increased number of pages devoted to help, hints, and suggestions for better Sunday-school work. The wide field of the Sunday-school periodicals of this continent and Great Britain will be gleaned for seed thoughts and suggestions for improved methods. Correspondence is solicited from our Canadian schools, which are not less efficient than any in Christendom. Thus shall our Canadian Sunday-school workers contribute to the improvement of home plans, and furnish, also, suggestions for the consecrated toilers in the Sunday-schools of other lands.

Although these improvements involve considerably increased outlay, yet they are made

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