

DON'T FORGET THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Aid and Extension Fund Collection

—ON—

REVIEW SUNDAY—MARCH 28.

It will be remembered that the General Conference directs that this collection be taken up in all the Sunday-schools of our Church on the Review Sunday either in September or March. Some schools, it is to be feared, neglected to take it up in September. That is the best time. For then all the schools are open. In March those schools that close in winter have not yet come out of winter quarters. But we specially request that the direction of the General Conference be carried out by all those schools which may have neglected it in September. The ministers are all asked at the May District Meeting if this collection has been taken up; and, if it has not, the ministers often pay it out of their own pockets. Now, no school desires this to be the case. The ministers cannot themselves take up the collection, for few of them can be in the schools. It is the duty of the superintendent of the school to see that it is duly taken up and handed to the minister.

WHAT THE S. S. AID FUND IS DOING.

We give extracts from a few only of hundreds of letters received from schools needing help. 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 Newfoundland writes: "I am directed by the Sunday-schools of this circuit to convey to you their respectful and sincere thanks for the papers kindly sent by the Sunday-school Board. They have been carried into many a home where Methodist papers seldom go, and they are not only thankfully received by the people, but eagerly read. Since the periodicals have been discontinued we have noticed less interest in our Sunday-school work. Last year we contributed \$2.10 to the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund, and will do our best for that excellent fund this year. Our people, as a rule, are poor—being of the fisherman class—and can do little more than they are doing to supply their families with religious reading."

A minister in New Brunswick writes: "Our people are so poor here, and so taxed in their

poverty to keep up a church at all, that, after having done all we can, we are compelled to ask a grant in aid of our school. We are in competition with Sabbath-schools of other Churches, and they are strong and self-supporting, and we have to struggle for existence. Our hope is in our Sabbath-school, in which some devoted and godly women are labouring with most self-denying earnestness to save our cause from extinction. As there are no industrial enterprises here to furnish employment, and the last few years there has been great depression in the trade in fish, the people—our people especially—are quite dependent, and it is impossible to raise money, for the people have not got it. We have done our utmost to raise the amount we now forward with this, \$8.15. I regard the cause here as a just claimant, in view of all the circumstances, upon the fund, and I trust you will be able to make us a grant in aid."

A missionary in the Quebec District writes: "This school is poor, and has to struggle with difficulties which I am sure you would sympathize with if you knew them. We have concluded to keep the school open through the winter, therefore we would ask you if possible to extend the grant of S. S. papers till July next, hoping by that time we shall have some funds to help ourselves. If I am spared till spring I am going to try and open another Sunday-school on this Mission. May God help me in these humble undertakings, and give me wisdom and grace. If this school is opened can I depend on some help from the Sunday-school Board till the school gets established?"

A superintendent in Nova Scotia writes: "Your postal card filled me with joy, and I want to say that we highly appreciate your interest in, and kindness to, our Sunday-school. I was as modest as possible in making a request for aid, for I know there are many poor schools that need help, and I just asked for what we could barely get along with. But I have so often wished when distributing the papers that I had a few more, as some families have to go without. The papers are greatly enjoyed by the scholars, and I read them with a great deal of interest myself, as they seem adapted to old and young. My prayer is that God may bless you even more abundantly in the work in which you are engaged."

A missionary in Manitoba writes: "We are striving to make our Sunday-school a success. When I came here it was about closed. We got it reorganized, and now we have a working school. I purchased maps at my own expense, and have borne half the expense of the school ever since I came here. Our people have been much discouraged, and are so low in financial circumstances that they don't seem able to do much more than they do. But I think we shall, by a little more effort, be able to raise the cash to pay for the greater part of the grant asked for now before next Conference. We are praying for the Spirit's influence over the young. God is giving us their attention more and more. As I can't be in the Sunday-