



VALEDICTORY.

The growth of the Sunday School periodicals of the Methodist Church has been so great as to demand much more editorial work than ever before. When the present editor took charge of these periodicals they were three in number with a circulation of a few thousand. They have now increased to ten in number, with a circulation of nearly four hundred thousand, to be exact 379,759, considerably over one-third of a million, and with an issue of a quarter of a million pages every day. That increase was never so rapid as during the last quadrennium, namely, over sixty thousand, and during the last year of the quadrennium that increase has been 33,343, as much as that of the three previous years taken together. Moreover, there is a decrease of 7,161 periodicals not published by our own Book Room. These are chiefly American papers which our people are very properly discarding for those of our own church.

But in addition to the care of these ten periodicals their editor has also had charge of the **METHODIST MAGAZINE AND REVIEW**, which from a rather meagre beginning thirty-two years ago has grown to be a magazine demanding greater time and labor every year to keep it abreast of the keen competition with the growing number of British, American and Canadian magazines which circulate so largely in this country. The testimony of its readers and of the Conferences is that it was never so good in illustration and contents as during the last quadrennium, and never so

good as during the past year. But there is a limit to human endurance, and the editor has felt himself unable to give the time and strength demanded by the growing needs of all these periodicals. He therefore felt that he must be relieved of the charge of the **Methodist Magazine and Review** in order to give his whole attention to the Sunday School periodicals which have reached the above stated remarkable development.

At his own request therefore the Book and Publishing Committee of the General Conference recommended to that body that it should refer the whole question of consolidation of periodicals and reduction of their number to the central section of the Book Committee at Toronto, with authority to act in the premises. This was done, and after careful consideration of the matter the above decision received concurrence.

It is not without regret that the editor gives up the charge of the "**Methodist Magazine**," to which for the long period of thirty-two years he has devoted so much time and thought and care. But it is a gratification to know that the Sunday School department of his work has so greatly grown as to make this a necessity. It is expected that the magazine, or at least the review part of it, under the auspices of another department of our Church may be perpetuated and developed as an organ for the expression of the higher thought and discussion of the larger problems of Canadian Methodism. Of this due announcement will be hereafter made.