

SABBATH SCHOOLS,—REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Presbytery's committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to present the following report, in addition to what was stated at last meeting of Presbytery. After some delay, which your committee deeply regretted, copies of the series of Sabbath School lessons recommended, were procured and forwarded to each of the congregations, within the bounds of the Presbytery, and there is reason to believe that they are now in use, in all the schools. As formerly stated, your committee addressed to the superintendent of each school a series of questions, and requested the answers to be returned before the first day of the present month. It is a matter of regret and disappointment to the committee that only fifteen of the congregations have sent in reports of the schools connected with them. The reports received, however, are generally full, and highly satisfactory, a minute abstract of the whole is appended to this report. The number of pupils enrolled is 1,654, average attendance 1,140,—number of teachers 100 male; and 110 females, total 210, average attendance 187,—number of volumes in libraries 4,763,—amount of collections for missions in seven schools \$238,—about one half of the schools are held in the morning, the other half in the afternoon. Hymns are used in all the schools except two. The committee desire to direct the attention of the Presbytery to the following facts elicited by the reports. That in most of the schools some persons are employed as teachers, who are not members of the church,—that in many cases the teachers have no stated meetings,—and that in about one half of the schools no collections whatever are made. They note also, with grateful satisfaction, the large average attendance of the children, and the marked regularity, on the part of the teachers—absence in their case, being only *one in ten*. The reports speak also very encouragingly of the condition and prospects of the schools, and in many of them mention is made of a number of the schools having been admitted to the fellowship of the church, during the past year. In some of the schools, large infant classes are taught with most gratifying success. On the whole, your committee regard the reports received, as furnishing good grounds alike for gratitude and hope, and they cannot refrain from again expressing their regret that all the congregations, did not see it to be their duty to send the required returns, as in that case the information would have been more complete and would have formed a broader basis for future plans, and efforts.

Your committee would respectfully suggest, that the Presbytery strongly recommend, that in all the schools connected with the congregations under its care, collections be made every Sabbath for missionary purposes, as it is of *highest importance that our children be taught the duty, and trained in the habit of giving for religious objects*,—and that, wherever practicable, teachers' meetings be regularly held for prayer and preparation of the lessons. Such meetings have generally been found to have the effect of uniting the teachers in their work, and of increasing the interest and efficiency of the schools. They think it also desirable that the Presbytery seek, through the Synod's committee on Sabbath Schools, to urge upon the Synod the propriety of sanctioning and recommending some suitable hymn-book, for use in our Sabbath Schools. Your committee deem it dutiful to state, that in January last, a Sabbath School convention, composed of the funds of Sabbath Schools, in the counties of Lincoln and Welland, was held in St. Catharines. The exercises were both interesting and profitable, and, in the opinion of several members of the Presbytery who were present, and who live in that locality, have exerted a happy influence upon the Sabbath Schools there,—such meetings elsewhere have often been productive of great good.

Your committee feel assured that the interest which the Presbytery has already taken in the Sabbath Schools, has done much to cheer the hearts of