

be continually aimed at. Model training classes and teachers' meetings, when they can be maintained, are important means of promoting the efficiency of teachers. In our scattered rural congregations, where the institutions just mentioned cannot be kept up, pastors may do much in their bible-classes to assist and encourage their teachers.

While we are dealing with matters of organization, we would emphasize the importance of

PASTORS AND SESSIONS

taking a close oversight of S. schools in their congregations. Pastors, we think, should regularly visit the schools, take note of the work that is being done, and speak kindly words of encouragement and cheer to both teachers and scholars. Sessions should have control of schools, and require from them an annual report of their work.

In regard to the

STUDIES OF THE SCHOLARS,

the reports show that a large amount of good work is accomplished. The study of the International Bible Lessons is the main feature in the exercises. The unfolding and application of Bible-truths by the teachers; the memorizing of the words of Scripture by the scholars; how important in their bearing on the eternal well-being of our youth. All proper means should be used to stimulate Bible-study and research on the part of the scholars. The former practice of assigning a doctrine to be proved from Scripture, which has somewhat fallen into disuse, was a most valuable one in this respect. We are glad to find that the Shorter Catechism holds a prominent place, in the exercises of our S. Schools. In the interest of intelligent, steadfast piety, as well as of pure, sound doctrine, it is earnestly to be hoped that it will ever be so.

We now come to the

ADDITIONS TO THE COMMUNION ROLL

from our S. Schools.

Halifax P'y reports	208	ad.	from 39	sch's
Truro " " "	47	"	"	15 "
Pictou " " "	148	"	"	38 "
Wallace " " "	58	"	"	6 "
Lun. & Shiel. " " "	8	"	"	3 "
Sydney " " "	248	"	"	20 "
Vic. & Rich. " " "	19	"	"	3 "
St John " " "	93	"	"	23 "
Miramichi " " "	111	"	"	9 "
P. E. Island " " "	298	"	"	33 "

The whole number of additions is 1238 from 189 schools. The total number of additions, by profession of faith, within the bounds of the Maritime Synod, as reported in the Assembly's statistics, is 4493; so that the S. Schools have furnished more than one-fourth of this whole number. The whole number of accessions from the schools is 314 in excess of that of last year. Moreover, every Presbytery within the bounds reports accessions—a very cheering fact. Last year seems to have been a year of special blessing. We believe we are not mistaken when we say that this special blessing was the result of more earnest prayer and more faithful, self-denying work.

While we devoutly thank God for what he has wrought through our labors, there are other aspects of the statistics given above which are

NOT SO ENCOURAGING.

In all 423 schools have reported. Only 189 of these have given recruits to the membership of the church; 234 schools have been barren of results in bringing the young to public profession of the Saviour. Think of it. Is the duty of confessing Christ before men being tenderly but faithfully urged upon the youth of our congregations? Is there the anxiety for their spiritual well-being, and the effort to bring them to personal acceptance of Christ and personal experience of religion, that there ought to be? When we come up here to present our annual record of the work done, why should we not be able to report that every school throughout our bounds has contributed its sheaf to the precious ingathering? Instead of giving only one-fourth of the total annual increase of our church-membership, we believe that the S. School should be the principal source of growth. May we not scripturally hope for the time when the youth of our land will be on the side of Christ, in number and in beauty like the dew of the morning.

THE MATTER OF CONTRIBUTIONS

falls next to be noticed. The total amount of contributions reported as raised is \$3642, which was disbursed as follows: \$4854 expended upon schools; \$3641 for missions, and \$147 for other objects. Your Committee are of opinion that there is need for a reformation in the matter of S. S. finance and benevolence. Is it creditable that the amount spent on