

speculations will reveal both their weakness and their antagonism to Biblical theology.

It is still true, after the lapse of ages, that the world by wisdom knows not God. Hence the folly—one is constrained to say, the wicked folly—of preaching philosophy to perishing men instead of the simple Gospel which is the power of God and the wisdom of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

### CHILDREN'S DAY, SEPT. 27th, 1893.

IN 1891 the General Assembly resolved as follows: "That the last Sabbath in September be appointed as a day of special prayer on behalf of the Sabbath Schools of the Church, and that such services be held as will bring prominently before our congregations the claims of the Sabbath School upon their prayerful sympathy, pecuniary support, and personal co-operation."

The succeeding Assembly further resolved: "That it be a recommendation to the congregations of the Church, to take up a collection in aid of the Sabbath School Committee's funds on the last Sabbath of September, the day already fixed by the Assembly as a day of special prayer on behalf of the Sabbath Schools of the Church."

The last Assembly (1890), held in Toronto, has added the following: "The General Assembly requests that the whole collection taken up at Children's Day services be sent to the Sabbath School Committee."

We would ask our Sabbath Schools and congregations to notice the three points indicated in these recommendations regarding Children's Day.

1. It is to be a day of special prayer on behalf of our Sabbath Schools. Should all our congregations unite "with one accord" on one day, if not "in one place," might we not expect a Pentecostal blessing upon the work of the coming winter? The S. S. Committee has prepared a new and appropriate service for the occasion, entitled "The Messiah." To all schools which received copies last year the same number will be sent again about the first of September.

These concert exercises are supplied *gratis* in any quantity. Please send your order at once to the convener, as this year they will be supplied from St. John only. See that your school takes part and that there are enough copies of the service ordered to supply the congregation present as well as the scholars.

2. A collection is to taken up in behalf of the funds of the Sabbath School Committee. For this purpose envelopes are furnished along with the concert exercises. The work under the care of the Committee has grown in magnitude every year just a little faster than the income, so that instead of being able to wipe off our deficit, we have seen it gradually growing larger until it now amounts to a considerable sum. Any further

increase, however, is altogether improbable, and a liberal response this year will relieve the Committee from the dead weight of arrears that it has to carry.

The impression has been given in some quarters that the Committee is "getting deeper and deeper into debt." This is quite erroneous. The contrary is the truth. In 1891 our deficit increased 104 per cent., but our subscription list rose 25 per cent.; in 1895 the former was augmented by 8 per cent. and the latter by 136 per cent.; while last year only 61 per cent. was added to our liabilities, but our subscription list increased 153 per cent. and passed the paying point, so that deficits are at an end.

3. The whole collection should be sent to the convener. This has not been done hitherto, but in future the Committee respectfully and earnestly ask our Sunday Schools and congregations to remit the whole amount. When contributions were first asked for, a small sum only was required, now we are managing a very large business and new openings for usefulness to our schools are presenting themselves.

We are particularly anxious that the amount necessary to meet the expenses incurred in starting our lesson helps should be made up by contributions from individuals or Sunday Schools before the end of year. If this is done, we shall be rid of deficits forever, and the revenue from our "Home Study" lesson helps will leave a handsome balance in hand. This with the Children's Day collections, will amply provide for all editorial expenses and the general management of the work. We ask our friends to make a special effort this time.

The General Assembly has remitted to presbyteries to decide whether the Committee shall continue to publish lesson helps or not. The decision must turn mainly upon the financial question. Although the circulation is now larger than is necessary to pay all expenses of printing, etc., the initial outlay lies upon us as an incubus. No doubt it might all be paid in a year or two from the profits, but in the meantime there is a danger that its existence may lead some to fancy that we are not succeeding, and so, from an imperfect consideration of the subject, these may vote to discontinue the publication of our very excellent "Home Study" lesson helps. This would be a real misfortune and a humiliation to the Church. Our Church loyalty and our patriotism would both deplore such a result.

Steps are being taken to solicit personal subscriptions from individual friends of the work this fall, in the meantime we ask all our schools to take part in the coming Children's Day services and sustain the Committee to the best of their ability.

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