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## Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1893.

## Aggressive Temperance Work.

THE recent debate on temperance in the Ontario Legislature was, we judge, one of the most important ever held by that body. The Government gave assurance that it would make provision for a plebiscite, or popular vote of the people on prohibition at the next municipal elections which shall take place throughout the country on the first week in January, 1894. The Government also announced that it would test the question whether the province can prohibit the liquor traffic, and that it would go to the utmost extent in that direction.

It remains now for the people, irrespective of party, to speak out clearly and strongly on this subject. This can be done all the better at the municipal elections, which are almost entirely free from political bias, than at a general election. Moreover, at the municipal election a large number of women have a right to vote, not as many, in our judgment, as ought to have that privilege, but still a very valuable contingent to the forces of moral reform. The women, God bless them, may almost all of them always

be counted on the right side of every moral question.

Here is work for our Sunday-school teachers and officers, and for our Epworth Leagues and other young people's societies. In our Sunday-school officers are over thirty thousand earnest, zealous, God-fearing men and women, many of whom have votes, and all of whom can largely influence and control opinion. In our Leagues and other societies we have, at least, fifty thousand more of a similar class. They should be up and doing. Thousands of petitions have gone to Parliament asking for this right to vote. It would be worse than criminal not to take advantage of it. The liquor-sellers, the enemies of temperance and righteousness will do their utmost to defeat this temperance plebiscite. They will spare neither time nor toil nor money. Like the idol makers of Ephesus, their craft is in danger. Selfish greed will prompt to most strenuous effort to turn this plebiscite into a victory for strong drink. Let every Sunday-school, every young people's society, every class meeting, every quarterly meeting and district meeting begin at once to organize for such an overwhelming vote of the people against the drink curse as shall give that guilty traffic in the bodies and the souls of men a blow from which it shall never recover in this land.

A great responsibility rests upon our Methodist Sunday-schools. They number more than all the other Sunday-schools of the province taken together. If they be delinquent in pushing this battle they will be largely responsible for its defeat. If they be aroused to energy and put forth their strength they can secure its victory. Let there be temperance meetings, temperance resolutions, temperance discussions, wide diffusion of temperance literature, in which the papers of our Sunday-school will contribute their full share, and a great victory may be achieved for the cause of temperance.

## Olive Wood from Jerusalem.

ANY subscriber to THE BANNER who will remit 15 cents, will receive, post-free, a beautiful section of olive wood from the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem, polished to perfection by native workmen, showing the grain and dark concentric rings, and stamped with the name of the sacred city in English and Hebrew—a most valuable and interesting souvenir of the Lord's land. About three and three-quarters of an inch in diameter and three-quarters of an inch thick, it makes a beautiful paper weight or parlour ornament. A more beautiful or appropriate present cannot be conceived than a section of olive wood from sacred Mount Olivet, where the Master taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer, and at the foot of which lies the Garden of Gethsemane, with all its sacred memories. What could be more attractive to