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**Sunday School Banner.**


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W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

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TORONTO, APRIL, 1885.

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**The International Lesson Com-  
mittee and its Work.**

CANADA has been honoured in being asked to contribute two members to the International Lesson Committee. The Rev. Dr. Potts, who has served with great efficiency during the past seven years, was unanimously elected by the late Sunday-school Convention at Louisville to serve for another term of seven years. Ex-Vice-Chancellor Blake, of Toronto, was also unanimously elected as the other Canadian member of that Committee. Whatever other honours these gentlemen may receive, we do not think that they will receive any greater than that appointment. It is an honour, moreover, that involves a great responsibility, and sends a man to his knees before God to seek guidance in the task assigned him—the task of selecting the lessons for seven years for the millions of Sunday-school scholars and teachers throughout the world who have adopted this Lesson System.

The selections of the Committee during the past have not escaped criticism. It has been alleged that they are too disconnected, and

that some of them are not so well adapted for the religious instruction of the young as other lessons that might have been selected. Some who have tried to be facetious over the matter, have characterized the method that has been pursued as the "hop-skip-and-a-jump" system, or as the grass-hopper or kangaroo method. It is, of course, easy to find fault. But we must keep in mind the object of the Committee, which was to give the scholars in seven years a good general idea of the *whole* Bible—the relations and interdependence of its various parts—history, prophecy, psalm, and doctrine. And this they have done in a way and on a scale in which it was never done in the world before. There is, of course, matter enough in the four Gospels for a seven years' course of lessons; but we do not think it would be the wisest plan to confine the lessons to the four Gospels. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." We think a better conception of God's revelation of His will will be obtained by a wiser range of selection, somewhat after the plan heretofore adopted.

Nevertheless, we think that plan susceptible of modification with advantage. We think that it must have been felt that some of the lessons were hard to adapt to the needs of very young scholars. We are inclined to think that it would be better during the time that the senior scholars are going through the prophecies or epistles, to have simpler lessons of narrative interest, and chiefly from the Gospels, for the younger scholars.

The varied suggestions that have been made will, we are sure, be carefully weighed by the Lesson Committee. Indeed, the Rev. Dr. Potts has written us asking that a request be made through the BANNER for practical suggestions from Sunday-school workers on this subject. They may be made either directly to Dr. Potts, at Montreal, or may be sent to the BANNER for publication.

WE are glad to learn that the Rev. A. Andrews, the Sunday-school Agent of the Guelph Conference, has been labouring with his characteristic zeal and efficiency in the work to which he was assigned. The list of appointments before us covers four months—almost every night being filled up, and scarce two nights being spent in the same place. Two

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