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## Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1899.

### The Sunday-schools in the Conferences.

We are glad to know that the Sunday-school interests of our church were recognized in the several Conferences as among its most important interests. Much attention was given to this subject in the Sunday-school committees and in the Conferences. The reports on the schools are full of wise suggestions recognizing the vast importance of the future of our church of the vigorous prosecution of this most promising department of church work. The following report of the Sunday-school Committee of the Toronto Conference is a typical example of these documents. We beg to solicit the earnest consideration of the teachers and officers of all our schools to the words of weight and wisdom it contains:

Your committee, recognizing the vast importance and far-reaching influence of

the Sabbath-school work committed to our care as a church, would draw attention to a few of the many matters of interest connected with it. Of first importance would we consider the conversion of the scholars, and their reception into the church. We rejoice in the addition to the church of 1,414 during the year, and in the total number of 9,516 reported as members of the church in our Conference, but would hope that with a staff of over 5,000 officers and teachers still greater progress will be made in bringing the large number of scholars under our care to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

For this work we would recommend great care in the selection of consecrated men and women, who have a true conception of the value of souls, and for their thorough equipment a system of training in keeping with the times, either as found in the present method of normal classes, or something equivalent, so that all the efficiency possible would be obtained.

For the better teaching of the doctrines of the Word of God, we would strongly urge the use of our catechism in all our schools. Only 3,142 out of 44,575 scholars are at present learning it, altogether too small a number considering the great life-long benefits which would result from a thorough study of it.

From the reports we have received of the great good resulting from the work of the Home Study Department, we would strongly advise the more general adoption of it throughout our work. Out of 206 circuits, 180 report as yet no Home Department.

With the object of keeping the highest spiritual interests of our schools prominent before us we would suggest that our anniversaries should be less of the mere entertainment nature, and of a more pronounced religious character. The pastor to place himself in relation to the superintendent and teachers on the line of the conversion of the scholars and their reception into the church as a special feature of the anniversary occasion, and to have the services in the church and school for weeks before to lead up to that point.

We would recommend that our scholars be trained to give intelligently to the funds of the church, and that, where at all possible, once a quarter at least, after the object having been plainly presented, a collection for the missionary cause be taken up either in the class or open