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Sunday School Banner

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

TORONTO, JUNE, 1903

The Bicentenary.

WE beg to call special attention to the official announcement of the Wesley Bicentenary. This memorable occasion should be celebrated in all our schools and Leagues and congregations with special emphasis. We are endeavoring in all our periodicals to give it conspicuous attention. Thus shall the whole church be united in celebrating God's goodness, the gift of the great man who was honored throughout the world as the organizer of the greatest religious revival since the days of the Apostles. The tiny tots in the Sunday School will find a special Wesley number of Dew Drops, Sunbeam, Happy Days, Pleasant Hours, Onward, and this number of The Banner, will also team with memorial matter. The special commemoration of this great event will find its place in the bicentenary number of The Methodist Magazine and

Review. This will be in large size, reduced price, in order to bring it within reach of every member of our Church. It will have over twenty articles and sixty engravings, giving various phases of Wesley's life and times, with numerous Wesley poems and other features of very special interest. The price will be only fifteen cents, two cents extra for postage. Every scholar in our schools should have a copy of this Wesley memorial number. Send in your orders at once that we may know how many to print, that you may receive this special number without disappointment.

The Wesley Bicentenary.

THE twenty-eighth day of June, 1903 (17th, old style), will mark the 20th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, and universal Methodism will celebrate the day. In the long line of the world's benefactors there is no name more worthy of commemoration.

The General Conference unanimously decided to celebrate the event in a becoming manner by appropriate religious services and a thank-offering for missions.

The Executive Committee, in accordance with instructions, has outlined a plan for the celebration which will be laid before the Annual Conferences. It covers three points.

It is the earnest desire of the Executive Committee that from first to last the spiritual side of the celebration should be emphasized and made prominent. The propriety of this will be at once apparent. It pleased God, through the instrumentality of John Wesley, to bless the world with the mightiest revival of vital religion since Apostolic days, and any celebration of the Bicentenary year would be barren of results which did not keep in the forefront the purpose for which Wesley and the Methodist people were raised up—"to spread Scriptural Holiness over the world."

OUTLINE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1. That a preliminary statement and appeal, signed by the General Superintendent and Secretary of Missions, be prepared and published in our connexional periodicals, setting forth the character and objects of the Bicentenary celebra-