

### CONFERENCE SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT.

Your Committee, after a careful examination of the imperfect returns that have been submitted to them, have much pleasure in being able to report, that there are in connection with our work, in this part of the Province, 297 Sabbath Schools; 2,145 Teachers; 16,140 Scholars; 38,245 vols. in the Libraries; and had the returns been complete, we doubt not but a much larger number would have been reported.

We cannot but regard this as a highly interesting and deeply-important department of our work. Other Schools may impart useful and literary knowledge, but it is the especial object of Sabbath Schools to implant in the minds of our youth the germ of divine knowledge. From the returns that have been made, we believe there is an increasing desire to have our Schools Wesleyan in their character; hence the increase of those Schools in which our books and catechisms only are used; and we believe the thirty-eight thousand volumes that are principally Wesleyan in their character, which are circulated among our children, and through them in their respective families, cannot fail to exert a very powerful and salutary influence upon their minds, and we can say, "The fields are" not only "already white unto the harvest," but many precious sheaves have been gathered into the garner of the Church, and many of the children, during the past year, have been converted unto God, and especially in connection with that gracious work of God that has been going on for so many months in the City of Toronto.

Your Committee is convinced that our Schools might be carried on more efficiently in many places, if there could be more ministerial visitations to these Schools; but we are aware,

that such is the extent of our Sabbath labours, that it would be difficult: yet, we believe, in many instances practicable; and where it is not, the Teachers and some of the children might be occasionally met on a week evening, as our week-night appointments are not so numerous as they were formerly.

We would recommend increased attention to the circulation of our *Sunday School Guardian* as a very useful and interesting periodical, admirably adapted to promote the efficiency of this department of our work. The exceedingly low price of which will bring it within the reach of every family, throughout the vast extent of our work.

In connexion with our Schools, we are pleased to find that there are several Bible and Catechumen Classes—a very necessary appendage to our Sabbath Schools. In these Classes, the minds of our youth are directed to the evidences of the divine origin of our holy religion, its historical narratives, fundamental doctrines, and especially those to which greater prominence is given in our own ministrations, such as the universality of the atonement, justification by faith, the direct witness of the Spirit, entire sanctification, the possibility of falling from grace and perishing eternally, and the consequent necessity of being faithful unto death: and this we regard as being the more necessary, because the books that are circulated, and the influence exerted by other Societies, is in many respects of a contrary character.

We would beg most earnestly to direct your attention to the importance of Bible and Catechumen Classes, in which the minds of our youth may be trained up for future usefulness in the Church, as officers and Teachers in our Sabbath Schools, or even as Ministers in our Church. Many of those who are now watchmen on the