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The Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1884.

New Year's Stock-Taking.

It will be well for us all, as do merchants of their worldly goods at this season of the year, to take stock of our spiritual possessions, to ask:—Are we holier than we were a year ago? Are we happier? Have we more power over sin, or has sin more power over us? What usury have we gained of our Lord's talent entrusted to our care? Let us remember that now are we nearer to our salvation or to our condemnation, to our endless happiness or woe, than we were a year ago.

We ought to be much wiser in the things of God. We have been sitting for another year at the feet of Jesus, learning the lessons of His love, listening to the words of Him who spake as no man ever spake. Have they been engrafted into our hearts? Have they brought

forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness in our lives? What result have we seen from our labours? Have any of our scholars been brought to God? Have any gone home rejoicing to the skies? Are some upon the road thither who a year ago were on the downward path? Thank God, our labours as a Church on behalf of the children committed to our care, have not been in vain. Over two thousand of the scholars in our schools have been savingly converted to God, and are now rejoicing in the way to heaven.

Let us rise to the height of our opportunity and privilege during the coming year, and seek to reap fuller sheaves for the immortal harvest of the skies than we ever did before.

As with devout gratitude for the mercies of the past we exclaim,

"Here I'll raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come,"

let us also set up our standard and say—"In the name of the Lord we will go forward."

Although the future be unknown, and have in store for us many trials and sorrows, yet if God go with us, of whom or of what shall we be afraid? Let us then with renewed consecration of ourselves, our time, our talents, all we have and are, to the service of God, essay cheerfully the duties of the present, and trust Him for grace to supply every need of the future. Soon life's circling years will all be past. May we all be permitted then to assemble in our Father's house on high, the everlasting home of the soul, with all the objects of our earthly solicitude, the scholars for whose welfare we have laboured, and be able to say to the Master, "Lo, here are we, and the children whom Thou hast given us." There through an unending year shall we sit together at Jesus' feet, and learn new lessons of His love, and with nobler powers and loftier faculties than we here possess, serve Him day and night in His holy temple of high.

The Catechism for 1884.

For some months we have been printing in the *Sunbeam* the new Methodist Catechism, No. I., for the little folk. We begin with the new year to print in the *BANNER* and *Quarterly* the new Methodist Catechism, No. II., for older scholars. It is the best summary of Christian doctrine and Bible history we ever