

ing in other schools. We write this without any intention of disparaging the work done by those schools, but merely to introduce the thought that perhaps something like a model class would be a good institution, where persons might be equipped and trained for teaching, and then held as a reserve force ready to fill vacancies and meet the growing needs of the work. Let such a class be formed and placed under an experienced worker. Let the Sunday-school Association take the whole work of city and suburbs under its supervision, and see that no work languishes for want of workers."

In every city, in every town throughout the country, such work might be undertaken much more fully, systematically and efficiently than has yet been attempted. Each Conference might be covered with a network of these Associations, each stimulating and helping the others, and the strong especially helping and encouraging the weak. Well-to-do schools, for instance, might, when replenishing their library shelves, distribute those books that they can spare to schools needing them. Much has been done in this way through the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. The present writer has had the pleasure of distributing gratuitously over 20,000 volumes to poor schools. But much more might be accomplished if the thing were systematically undertaken.

We may here remark, parenthetically, that there are incessant applications for such books—far more than we can supply; and if schools having books to spare will kindly send them addressed to the Rev. W. H. Withrow, Toronto, they will be thankfully received and distributed to needy schools throughout the country, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, and all costs of transport paid.

We venture to express the hope that the May District Meetings will take the matter up with vigour, and each form its own local Sunday-school Association where none now exists; and also appoint two of its most energetic Sunday-school workers—a minister and layman—as members of the more general Associations to be organized at the approaching Conferences. Under this plan each circuit, or each town where there is more than one school, should have its local Association for mutual help and counsel. A new *esprit de corps* and new energy, as a result, would animate our whole Sunday-school work; and in many places where there are now no schools they would be planted and fostered and sustained.

During the last Conference year there was an increase throughout the Connexion of 142

schools, 1,349 officers and teachers, and 10,785 scholars. But that rate of progress might be greatly increased. Our Church has already more Sunday-schools, more teachers and more scholars than all the other Protestant Churches in the Dominion taken together. But we conceive that its duty to the young people committed to its care is not accomplished while there is a single Methodist preaching appointment where there is not also an efficient Methodist Sunday-school. For the founding of schools in every place where none now exists, and for the helping of needy schools where they do exist, liberal assistance in books, papers and Sunday-school equipment will be given from the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund, on application through the undersigned. Forms of application forwarded on request.

W. H. WITHROW,

Secretary of Sunday-school Board.

THE announcement of the prize essay on "Systematic Giving" has attracted much attention. Dr. Withrow, Secretary of the Committee of Adjudication, has received letters of inquiry on the subject to the number of 122, distributed as follows: Ontario, 26; Quebec, 7; Nova Scotia, 2; Michigan, 10; Illinois, 9; Ohio, 7; Pennsylvania, 7; New York, 10; Iowa, 4; Indiana, 4; Massachusetts, 3; Maryland, 3; Tennessee, 2; Georgia, 2; Kansas, 2; Virginia, 2; Maine, 1; Connecticut, 2; Rhode Island, 1; New Jersey, 1; Kentucky, 1; Missouri, 1; Minnesota, 1; Louisiana, 1; Arizona, 1; Washington, D.C., 2; Manitoba, 1; England, 5; Wales, 1; Scotland, 1; also one from Draume, Norway (written in the Norse language), and one from Marseilles in the south of France.

Souvenirs of My Time. By JESSE FRÉMONT. 393 pages. \$1.50. L. L. Withrow & Co.

The wife of Frémont, the Pathfinder of forty years ago and almost President thirty years ago, has written a bookful of reminiscences. Mrs. Frémont has long been known as a brilliant converser and story-teller. Her later years have been given to making books; and the books have the freshness and sparkle of youth.

The Twilight of Life is a little volume of words of counsel and of comfort for the aged, by JOHN ELLERTON, M.A. It is printed in very large type, out of respect to tired eyes, and is designed to set before those who are growing old, or are already grown old, some of the brighter and more cheering aspects of old age. Cassell & Co.