

Canadian Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society will either make a grant or reduce the price.

But having a Bible and making the best use of it are two different things. Many scholars are still unfamiliar with their Bible, and when the text is announced in Ezra or Joel, they have sometimes a good deal of difficulty in finding it. We purpose giving in *Onward* shortly, a series of brief Biblical studies that we trust will greatly familiarize our young people with the sacred books, their order, their character, and their contents.

Bible Studies in the Home.

THE Rev. Dr. Dunning for some years Secretary of the Sunday-school Board of the Congregational Church, and now editor of the *Congregationalist*, a few years ago procured the inauguration of the Home Department of the Sunday-school work. To this we have frequently made reference. Its advantage cannot be over stated. Its purpose is to interest the whole membership of the Church, or as many of them as possible, for the study of the Sunday-school lessons. They are requested to spend a half hour each week in this study. They receive the same Sunday-school helps as the scholars in the school. In many cases, persons who cannot attend the school become exceedingly interested in the studies in which the school is engaged. In not a few cases persons also engaging in the home study are led to become active members of the Sunday-school.

The Home Department is especially advantageous in country places where dwellings are remote from the schools and where young children cannot attend them. Many mothers, gathering their little brood about them, can thus have a home school in which the sacred lessons are taught. It thus promotes family religion and builds up the church in the house. It brings the home circle into touch with the great Sunday-school work throughout the continent and throughout the world, and with the thousands of other homes where a similar work is carried on. It increases the interest in the Word of God and leads to a more intelligent understanding of its holy teachings. It brings the home and school into more vital touch and sympathy, and will aid greatly in increasing the interest in the school.

We have been pleased to note many of our larger churches, as the St. James Church, Montreal, the Metropolitan, Toronto, and we doubt not in many others, that large adult Bible classes taught by the pastor have been a source of great profit. Many of the members are heads of families, mature and well-informed Christians. It is, of course, well, as far as possible to bring the Church into the school. By all means, also, take the school into the home. We respectfully call the attention of teachers and superintendents to this new de-

parture. Let them organize the Home Department of Sunday-school work in as many households as possible.

In many places the pastor has found that it added great interest to the week night service to discuss the subject of the Sunday-school lesson for the following Sabbath, and then ask the divine blessing on its teaching. This still further broadens the scope and range of Sunday-school influence. The Sunday-school institution has yet undeveloped possibilities of untold value. The study of the divine word make better and more intelligent Christians and more active workers in the service of our common Master and Lord.

"Now Concerning the Collection."

It will be remembered the regular instruction of the General Conference is that a regular collection be taken up in all our schools each year for the benefit of the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. The Review Sunday in September, is recommended as the time when such collection should be taken up. The Annual Report of the Sunday-school Board which will shortly be published in the BANNER, will show how great a work is being accomplished by that Fund. Many scores of new schools are being established every year, especially in the new and more remote and destitute parts of our country. Many of these schools are being assisted in their earlier years, which in time become strong and self-supporting centres of influence and beneficence for other schools.

The following out of many scores of letters received, will indicate the character of the work that is being done by this Aid and Extension Fund. This Fund has been growing in favor from year to year. The entire Fund is devoted to the carrying on of our Sunday-school work, not one penny being diverted for expenses of administration, although this demands the expenditure of a great deal of time and labor.

A minister in north-western Ontario writes: "I am glad to say our school is doing well. We organized with one teacher and four scholars a year ago—we now number seventy-five and expect to reach a hundred before Conference. The assistance from Sunday-school Aid Fund was very valuable in giving us a start."

A missionary in Newfoundland writes: "The papers come as blessings to many of the homes in this neighborhood. A succession of bad seasons have reduced very many of the families to the extremest poverty, in which state they are unable to obtain sufficient clothing necessary to attend the ordinary means of grace, and to these homes the papers bring the only bit of Gospel they are able to obtain, exclusive of the pastoral visitation. The children, many of them, come short of life's common necessities, to say nothing of clothes and boots. Is there any fund or source from which we could get