

The Sunday School Banner.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1873.

REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THE Committee, appointed by the Conference to prepare the Report of the state of the Sabbath schools in connection with the Wesleyan Church of Canada, have well and faithfully discharged their duties; and we have, in consequence, a report for this year of more than ordinary interest and importance. We would very much like to publish the report entire, but cannot find room for more than a reference to a few points.

The report speaks encouragingly of gratifying progress, and testifies to the increasing energy displayed in this important field of labor. Kindly mention is made of the efforts put forth to establish a uniform series of lessons, and thankfulness is expressed that in at least 462 schools they have been adopted. A very needful caution, which we have more than once ventured to urge, is interjected concerning the use of the BANNER and LEAF in the class; and there is a timely counsel in favor of more independent Bible study. The practice of a weekly meeting, for study of the lesson, is also highly commended, and the general adoption of such a custom is urged. A suggestion in favor of the insertion of two questions, from our most admirable catechisms, in the LEAF, for each Sabbath in the month, received the approbation of the Conference; and we accordingly have great pleasure in acting upon the resolution to that effect. Regret is expressed that nothing was done by the library committee appointed by the

Conference of 1872, the duties of which were then set forth in the BANNER; and as the objects contemplated by the Committee were deemed important, their re-appointment was ordered. A third Sabbath school periodical was recommended, not to take the place of either of those now issued, but to supplement them. The Book Committee will consider the matter. A resolution, to the effect that a collection from each of our schools be requested, in order to aid in meeting connexional Sunday school expenditure—incurred by the issuing of Schedules, &c.—was adopted by the Conference. October is mentioned as a suitable time for the purpose.

The statistical returns exhibit a state of activity exceedingly pleasing; and, though the maximum of success is far from being reached, we thank God and take heart! There are now 950 schools, being an increase of 18. The total number of scholars is 68,784, a decrease of 328 as compared with last year,—this occurring in the number of scholars in the intermediate classes; a very large increase of the number of those in our Infant and Bible classes being reported. Over two thousand conversions are recorded, though we are pained to note a decrease of 104 in those attending class. Why is this, fellow-teachers? In the amounts collected for missionary and other purposes there is an increase of nearly eight thousand dollars. This is well. And if there has been no effort in this direction at the expense of attention to spiritual interests, there is great cause for thankfulness.

We forbear comment at present, leaving the facts to speak for themselves. For ourselves, our rejoicing is lessened that greater results are not seen. We believe they might be had, if there were on our part more faith and prayer.