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The Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1882.

The General Conference.

THE important department of our Sunday-school work will, before these pages reach our readers, have been brought before the General Conference. We make the following extracts from the Report of the Book Committee to that body:—

“No department of our Publishing interests has exhibited more rapid development than our Sunday-school Periodicals. The SUNDAY-SCHOOL BANNER is declared by those who have made careful comparison to be second to none of the many Lesson Helps which the enterprise of the various publishing houses have placed before the public. Its circulation has been steadily increasing till, at the time of this writing, it reaches nearly 8,000 copies per month. As its circulation increases, its quality is improved and its price is reduced, till now it is one of the cheapest, as well

as one of the best, in the market, and a still further reduction is contemplated.

“Of the Semi-monthly Sunday school papers, the progress has been still more marked. The old four-page *Sunday-school Advocate* has been superseded, first by the *Sunday-school Guardian*, and then by *Pleasant Hours* and the *Sunbeam*; and each of these has been doubled in size, while the price has not been increased but rather reduced, the object of publication being not to make money but to furnish the best possible papers for our schools at the lowest possible price. As a result, the circulation of the two papers has, at the time of writing, reached 43,729, being more than three times that of the single paper which they superseded. To meet an expressed want, another paper, similar in character to *Pleasant Hours*, is about to be issued, to supply the Schools on the intermediate Sundays when the latter is not distributed. These papers, which are instinct with patriotic, Missionary, and Temperance sentiment, and are loyal to the doctrines of our Church and Institutions of our country, are largely superseding these foreign and irresponsible papers which are often hostile to both; and they will be found, it is believed, among the best and cheapest in the world.

“Less than two years ago the *Canadian Scholars' Quarterly* was established, and has already reached a circulation of 18,200. The *Berean Lesson Leaf* also circulates to the extent of 47,970, and the *Quarterly Review Service* to the number of 11,350.”

We shall, in our next number, give information as to the arrangements made by the General Conference for the carrying on of our Sunday-school work.

NEVER despair of becoming a good writer when Esterbrook's steel pens are within the easy reach of all, both in the ease with which they can everywhere be procured from the stationers, and the low price at which they are sold.

THERE is but little bad luck in the world, but there is a heap of bad management.