

acts. In a book so full of treasure as is the Divine Word, every pious heart finds that which to itself is inexpressibly dear; and that others should seem to fail to realize this preciousness appears unaccountable. The gentlemen placed on the Committee, from different branches of God's one great Church, with widely differing environments, and all of them practically engaged in some form or other of Sunday-school work, have been unanimous in these decisions, and have done their utmost in view of all the objects committed to their hands to bring the topics and portions of the Word, most fitted, on the whole, to the end in view, into use; and they commit their work to the kindly forbearance of their fellow-laborers (for they well know that all cannot see alike in such matters), and to the good blessing of the Father of lights.

JOHN HALL, *Chairman of Sub-Committee.*

For the third term of seven years' study, the Lesson Committee agreed upon three years in the Old Testament, and four years in the New, with an alternation once in six months, save in a few exceptional cases.

Lessons were selected for the first year only, it being understood that for subsequent years such modifications of detail may be made as circumstances may seem to require.

The selections made for 1887 will be given to the public as soon as possible after our corresponding members in Great Britain and France shall have considered them, and shall have informed us what modifications they may think desirable.

WARREN RANDOLPH, J. H. VINCENT,
Secretary. Chairman.

NOTE.—We have had a good deal of correspondence on this subject, but the pressure of the Lesson Notes last month, filling as it did the entire space available in the BANNER, crowded it out. As the subject is now settled for the next seven years it is not necessary to further discuss it at present.—ED. BANNER.

THE Rev. John McEwen, the able and energetic Agent of the Ontario Sabbath School Association, held a very successful four days' convention in Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, in the latter part of April. Prof. Excell, of Chicago, conducted the musical exercises, which is equivalent to saying that it was well done. Mr. McEwen is doing excellent work throughout the country. Five weeks have been given to teacher-training in Toronto with hopeful results.

The Study of the Scriptures.

MORE and more is the attention of the world being concentrated on that grand old book, the Bible. Around it the controversy of the ages has gathered. Upon its pages generations of the profoundest scholars and subtlest intellects of the race have eagerly pored—some in the sinister effort to undermine its authority and invalidate its teachings; others with the earnest desire of comprehending those teachings and submitting to its rule. No other book in the world could endure such minute, such microscopic study, without revelations of discrepancies and imperfections. But, like the Hebrews of old, this book has come forth unharmed from the fiery furnace of hostile criticism; nay, glistening with new lustre and bright with added beauty.

This critical study of the Bible is needed for the full revelation of its riches. While golden nuggets of truth in profusion bestrew its surface, yet precious ore will still repay the miner's toil. While many of its teachings, like wayside flowers, breathe forth their generous fragrance on the passing breeze, so that life's weary wayfarers may inhale its sweetness, others, like medicinal plants, will only yield their healing simples in the alembic of prolonged and earnest study. Its great essential truths are so plain that whoso runs may read, but others will exhaust the profoundest and most critical inquiry and be not themselves exhausted.

It is noteworthy and an omen of brightest augury, that in an age of skeptical tendency, when all things are questioned and the very foundations of the faith are recklessly assailed, this grand old book, which is the source of our religious hope and ground of our confidence, is more than ever receiving the devout investigation, the loving study of the race. By means of the International Lessons, millions of Sunday-school children and multitudes of their elders are engaged in the consecutive study of the Word of God, and the ablest biblical scholars of the age employ their best talent in the elucidation of divine truth for the instruction of the little child. Thus shall the rising generation be better equipped for the battle of life than any of its predecessors; and in the words of life implanted in the soul possess an antidote against the malaria of skepticism which empisons the air.