

the want of clothing, unable to send their children to school. As soon as the times mend, I hesitate not to say the school will buy all that is required."

The Rev. W. W. Colpitts, of Neepawa, Manitoba, writes: "I have just closed special services at one of my mission stations, and, as is my invariable custom in such cases, I organized a Sunday-school in which I get most of the new members to take part. Nearly all the country, young and old, will attend school and have prayer-meeting after. They promise to raise \$6 as soon as their wheat is marketed. I regard these mission schools of great importance. Let us have these well equipped for a few years, and our position in this rising country is assured."

A superintendent in the backwoods writes: "Please be as liberal as possible, as you will remember this is a new school and very poor in the backwoods. The school was begun in a private house, but it was too small, so we secured an upper room of a blacksmith's shop, 20 x 30, and rigged it up, and we feel proud of it. We have had preaching several times, and we are having a good time, thank the Lord for it."

A missionary near Stony Lake writes: "The school which I organized last Spring is the first Methodist Sunday-school ever held in the neighborhood. Between ten and thirteen of the children and young people connected with the school have been converted. It is to furnish these with reading and instruction, as well as spiritual oversight, that the superintendent wishes to keep the school open all winter."

A minister in Bermuda writes: "I have, in the face of difficulty, organized a school, and, so far, have everything to encourage me. I feel that unless this movement is sustained our cause in this place will entirely become extinct. I have no papers for the children, nor can I raise funds to procure them."

The Rev. Wellington Bridgman, of Fort Macleod, N.W.T., writes: "You gave us free help for two years, and now we are paying for our periodicals and contributing to the Fund."

Another missionary writes: "We have now six first-class Sunday-schools on this mission, which would be impossible were it not for the assistance given us by the S. S. Board."

A Friendly Talk With Our Friends.

THE publisher and editor of the Sunday-school periodicals of our Church are most anxious to make them as bright, attractive, and interesting as possible, and to furnish them to our schools at the lowest possible figure. For this purpose they introduce as many engravings, and those of as high a grade, as can be procured. We think no paper in the world, published so cheaply, give so many and such good engravings. Now these engravings are very expensive, some of the single large engravings that

we use are worth nearly \$20. Indeed, to get them specially made would cost many times that sum. The editor, therefore, on whom the responsibility for the selection of these cuts rests, tries to keep down the cost of production by occasionally borrowing a few superior engravings from other periodicals. The publishers of the splendidly illustrated magazines, *St. Nicholas* and *Wide Awake*, have lent some of their beautiful cuts for this purpose. But they require as a return, that the source whence they have been taken shall be acknowledged, and that the general character of the articles which they illustrate be announced.

But no magazine that we know will allow its cuts to be used first in any other periodical, with a single exception. That exception is the *Methodist Magazine*, which is under the same editorial charge as the Sunday-school periodicals. Just about Christmas of each year, (without at all interfering with the specially illustrated Christmas and New Year's numbers,) the editor borrows from the *Magazine* some of the most attractive pictures of the forth-coming volume, and gives a full description of them, and makes a return for their use by announcing from what they are taken and the general subject they are intended to illustrate. The S. S. papers thus get better illustrations and more of them than they otherwise could have. It is by such economy of expense that the cost of the S. S. papers is kept so low; while at the same time justice is done to another connexion periodical which bears the cost of these engravings.

Thus we have recently had in *Pleasant Hours* and *Home and School*, some beautiful engravings of scenes in England, Ireland, and Holland, and especially of scenes in Palestine and Egypt, which are of much interest to Sunday-school scholars and teachers. We were somewhat surprised to learn that one school, while kindly expressing its high appreciation of the general character and contents of these S. S. papers, objected to the appearance of articles which, while giving an interesting description of the engraving, gave also the announcement above referred to. As some other teachers may, perchance, share this feeling, we have thought it well to take them into this friendly confidence. Our great desire is to give our schools the very best papers, in illustrations and description, that we possibly can, and to meet the wishes of our kind patrons, the teachers and scholars of the schools.

When they understand that they thus get more and better cuts, and at a cheaper price than they otherwise could, we think their objections, should they have any, will be overcome. In not more than one or two numbers in the year do these articles appear. If the announcement be objected to in the text it can be put in a foot note.

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