


The Sunday School Banner.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1873.

NOTICE!

 The JANUARY EDITION of THE BANNER is exhausted. Will our friends, in sending new subscriptions, kindly make a proportionate reduction from their remittances, and oblige?

MISSIONARY OFFERINGS BY CHILDREN.

IN the very interesting article which appeared in the last issue, from our correspondent in Montreal, reference is made to the subject of children's missionary offerings, and the different methods of collecting, viz., by boxes and cards, are contrasted. As this is the season of the year when this matter receives the most attention from our Sabbath-school friends, perhaps a few general remarks on the topic thus presented may not be out of order.

We are not among those who look upon children's missionary cards as an unmixed evil. All, we suppose, are agreed as to the value of early work for the Master. "The boy is father of the man," is a trite saying; yet its truth—as a general rule—cannot be doubted. Hence the importance of early training in the right direction follows as a foregone conclusion. It must likewise appear that it is important to get a child to work for Christ just so soon as the nature of Christ's requirements can be understood: and work in the direction specified in this article is sufficiently important, surely, to demand the sympathies of both old and young.

We approve heartily of children being early trained to give and labor for this cause; and though, for reasons hereafter mentioned, we prefer the box system to that of the cards, we think either is legitimate when a few general principles are carefully observed.

And, first, we most earnestly urge that all done in this way should be done *intelligently*. We agree with the sentiment contained in an article lately copied from an exchange, that intelligent liberality should be more fully exemplified and set forth. The children ought to have some notion of the needs of those for whom they are expected to give. If it be for Home Missions that contributions are required, let the children know it, and don't give them the wrong impression that they are saving and laboring for the blacks of South Africa. Children have common sense, and it is due to them that they should be made acquainted with the nature of the work in which they are engaged. Great importance should also be laid on the *spirit* which animates the laborers in this department. The work only that is done unto the Lord, and for Christ's sake, will receive the reward. We measure men by outward show: God looks to the heart. Hence the widow's mite was far costlier in His sight than the rich man's gift. The motive is the great thing with Him.

Though all this is undeniable, yet we have heard of instances—where better things might have been expected—where the children were not stimulated to efforts because it was pleasing to Jesus, but because the one who got the most would get a handsome reward. And we have sometimes thought that perhaps the whole system of rewards, in this one particular, is erroneous. For it may happen that the child whose offering is the smallest,