

attained by that at Waddington, N.Y., in the Presbytery of Brockville, where all are enrolled either as scholars or teachers, yet this is certainly the goal for which we should strive. In some form or other, the systematic study of God's Word should engage the attention of every Christian on the Sabbath day, and this is more likely to be attended to if there is concerted action under earnest-minded instructors.

CONTRIBUTIONS:—1,143 schools (66.5 per cent.) report that \$69,130 have been raised for all purposes. Since officers and teachers have contributed to this amount as well as scholars, we must take the average for the whole membership of the Sabbath-school. This will be 48 cents apiece; last year the average was 45 cents nearly. Estimating the unreported schools, as before, we obtain a grand total of \$3,626, an increase of \$8,066 over last year.

Only 577 schools (33.6 per cent.) are reported as contributing to any of the Schemes of the Church. We have reason to hope that our returns on this are very defective, but dealing with them as we are in duty bound, we add a quota for the unrepresented schools and obtain a total of \$27,662, or \$662 less than last year. The average contribution per member of the Sabbath School was 17 cents, or less than one cent for every three Sabbaths. Many schools have not informed us as to the proportion contributed to each scheme. Of the sum mentioned above, \$22,816 have been allocated as follows:—Home Missions and Augmentation, \$5,239; Foreign Missions, \$8,942; French Evangelization, \$6,275; Colleges, \$582, and the remaining schemes, \$1,779.

HIGHER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The Committee have given special attention to the institution of the scheme of Higher Religious Instruction. As soon as possible after the rising of last Assembly, copies of the syllabus and Regulations were mailed to all ministers and Sabbath-school superintendents whose post-office addresses your Convener could ascertain. Collecting cards for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions towards defraying the expenses of the Committee were also issued. Meetings were held during the session of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces on October 4th, and also at Toronto on 23rd and 24th of the same month. At these meetings the Committee made all the necessary arrangements connected with the examinations for 1890, and appointed sub-committees to mature certain matters requiring more lengthened consideration.

The total number of candidates who applied for examination was 1,087, but 1,156 are reported as having given more or less attention to the subjects laid down. Of those who entered, 634 chose the Biblical Department, 361 the Doctrinal, and 92 the Historical. Many were ambitious enough to try two depart-

ments, so that the actual number of separate individuals was less than the numbers mentioned. Only 600, however, sent in papers to be examined. This falling off is easily explained. Some, no doubt, sent in their names in order to secure a place, without having very clearly decided to study. Others may have been persuaded by enthusiastic companions or teachers, but having no taste for hard work, however desirable a diploma might be, they drew back when the day of examination approached. Few took the matter up in earnest until near the end of the year, and the time for preparation was so short that some did not feel themselves ready to face the ordeal. In certain cases we know large classes were disappointed in not being able to procure the text books laid down. The scheme created a larger demand for these volumes than booksellers anticipated, and the sources from which supplies could be most readily obtained were not known to everybody.

The hearty thanks of the Assembly are due to the chief examiners who set the questions, to their colleagues who read and valued the answers of candidates, and to the presiding examiners for their able assistance so cheerfully given. The question papers were fully up to a college standard, and the answers were reported upon with mingled justice and mercy. The scheme has met with a success far beyond the expectations of its promoters, and there is an increasing interest in it manifesting itself. Your Committee heartily recommend the Assembly to continue it as a permanent agency in the religious instruction of our youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS:—*Inter alia*, (1) Sabbath schools are urged to adopt the system of registers recommended by the Assembly. (2) Teachers and office-bearers are urged to impress the young with the duty of cultivating the grace of liberality, by frequently bringing before them the claims of the schemes of the Church. (3) That the Assembly expresses its satisfaction at the success which the Scheme of Higher Instruction has attained, and instruct the Committee to publish another Examination Syllabus for 1891, not later than December next. (4) That the examinations for 1890 be held on some day not during the Christmas holidays. (5) That Sabbath-school teachers be urged to hold weekly meetings for lesson study, and to form normal or other classes designed to promote their efficiency. (6) That the Committee be empowered to elect an Executive Board of five members, besides the Convener, which shall meet as often as necessary, and whose travelling expenses shall be paid out of the funds of the Committee. (7) That the Committee be instructed to enquire in regard to the number, names and contributions of the various organizations of a religious or literary character existing amongst our young people, and more or less avowedly in