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The Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1884.

The Chautauqua Circle.

WE beg to call the attention of our readers to the extended announcement of the Chautauqua course of reading in the present number of the BANNER. The fall of the year is the right time to take it up. There will probably be 100,000 persons reading it this year. We hope that many of the readers of the BANNER will be among them. This Circle is ever widening its sweep of influence. We know of nothing that will so meet the wants of those who have either been denied, or have neglected fully to use early opportunities for study, and who are anxious to make the most of the intellectual powers which God has given them. The studies of this course are within the scope of even the most busily occupied. Many of the

best students are engaged in arduous toil every day, and find relaxation and delight in prosecuting the prescribed course of reading. Those who follow it will be better fitted to discharge life's duties. They will be better teachers, better parents, better church members, will have superior enjoyments, and can, we believe, better glorify God than if they neglect it. They can do more to make home happy, life rich and generous, and society intelligent and attractive than without it.

At the General Conference of 1882, the following resolution was passed which is quite in harmony with the character of these Chautauqua Circles:—

Resolved,—“That this Conference strongly recommends the formation, wherever practicable, in connection with the congregations of our Church, of Mutual Improvement Societies, having for their object the promotion of the study of the Word and works of God, and His providential dealings with the race. “And that this Conference further recommends, as a most valuable assistance in the promotion of this object, the adoption of some such approved and definite lines of reading and study, as shall at once cultivate the intellectual and moral powers, and promote friendly and social relations among the membership of our Church, and shall guard their public and private entertainments against frivolous and dissipating tendencies.”

The establishment of a Chautauqua Circle in every congregation would meet this recommendation, and would, we are persuaded, be of untold advantage to the members of the Societies and to the Church as a whole. We have pleasure in this connection in reprinting the substance of a vigorous article on this subject, from the New York *Christian Advocate*, by the Rev. Jesse Young, M.A.

An Amazing Movement.

THE writer has just visited the far-famed Chautauqua, and has had a glimpse of the headquarters of the most amazing educational movement of the age. What impressed me deeply was the eager, hungry, inquiring spirit of study and exploration which marked many of the people who are there.

Teachers and others, from Texas, Arkansas, Minnesota, and, indeed, from all quarters of the land, I saw crowding the services, taking notes of lectures, spending hours in the presence of skilful instructors, and showing an alertness, a spirit of investigation, and an anxiety to get knowledge, which are remarkable. This spirit is manifested to a degree which amazes even