

good results can be anticipated. At the last Annual Meeting, the teachers ordered the sum of \$15. to be expended in purchasing some new books. That sum has not yet been expended, so that whatever the teachers may decide to expend upon the Library for 1885 can be added to the \$15.00 already voted, and in this way a larger and better supply of books can be secured during the present year.

The total average attendance falls a little short of that of the previous year. For 1883 the average attendance was 108; this year it is 106 32-52. This average however included the whole 12 months, and is exclusive of the attendance of the teachers. The slight decrease in the average attendance is more than accounted for by the fact that a larger number than usual of the children were absent from the city during some part of the months of July and August. The average attendance for the rest of the year is 112, and if we add the attendance of the teachers for the same time, the total will be 127.

Mr. McKinnon's class is this year entitled to the Superintendent's prize for best attendance. The average of the class as a whole reached the high standard of 92 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Geo. McKinnon was present every Sabbath during the year, and David and Thomas McCracken were present every Sabbath since they entered school in April last, while James Taylor, Margaret Bremner, and Eva McKinnon were absent on one Sabbath only.

The question of Sabbath School attendance is one which demands, and must receive, immediate attention if the spiritual condition of our Congregation is not seriously to deteriorate. The young men and women of to-day are those who, in another decade, are either to do or undo the work of our Congregation. Is it necessary that so many of them should be absent from the Sabbath School, and thus be missing the best possible training for their future work? Is that absence caused by their knowledge of God's word being perfect, or even satisfactory to themselves? Is it because the best talent and ripest Christian experience in the Congregation are not represented on the teaching staff? Is it because of the irregularity of the attendance of the teachers? Is it because the idea is prevalent that the Sabbath School is for children and for children only? Is it because no serious, systematic, constant efforts are made by the Congregation to retain them in the Sabbath