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GOOD CHEER

IN sending an order for the Sabbath School Helps for 1899, Rev. A. W. Thompson, of Couva, Trinidad, gives incidentally a glimpse of the plans of our missionaries for Sabbath School amongst the coolie population, whilst making a hearty word for THE HOME STUDY SERIES:

We have over twenty Sabbath Schools, and expect twenty-four for the year. I am extremely anxious to get our native Christians into closest touch with our home Church. I rejoice exceedingly at getting helps that will exactly meet our need, and at the same time serve this end. For the first time we attempt to follow the International Lessons. It is a venture. We are glad to be able, at once, from the start, to patronize our home Church, and get our young people to look to her for all that she can supply."

Our veteran Superintendent of Missions in the West, Rev. Dr. Robertson, has also very decided views as to a Church's duty to its own children. "The literature prepared and published by the committee," he writes under date of 22nd November, "should displace all foreign publications. The American view point of many things is different from ours. They have their own way of reading history, and we ours. We must teach our children patriotism. You cannot do it with the literature of a foreign country; for it will not be neutral, there must be something positive and with local coloring, if any lasting impression for Canada is to be made. Our patriotism is limp, without fibre and without fire. You hope to change this. I say but little about the spiritual. For that you will get credit everywhere; but I have been anxious for years about the effect of Sabbath School literature on the patriotism of young Canadians."

Words so like from such widely severed waters have their significance. We cannot neglect to train our children in our own way, and it is most gratifying that the Church's

effort to supply all needed help to Sabbath School teachers and scholars is meeting with wide and practical approval.

Our Lesson Helps, now in their sixth year, have not come to their present position without anxiety and labor, the chief share of which, in the earlier years was nobly borne by the Convener of the Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, to whom, with the editor of the *Record*, in whose hands the publications were placed for last year, the Church is under a deep and lasting debt of gratitude.

THE BOOK OF PRAISE IN THE SABBATH-SCHOOL

By Rev. Alex. McMillan

WHEN the General Assembly resolved to provide a revised Book of Praise for the Church, two courses were open. The Hymnal Committee might have been instructed to prepare either a Book of Church Praise, specially intended for use at the regular diets of worship, or a book suited to these services, yet sufficiently comprehensive and varied for use in all services connected with Church organization.

The General Assembly adopted the latter plan. From the commencement of their work to its close the committee kept this purpose so steadfastly in view that the contents of the Book of Praise have been, to a very considerable extent, determined by it.

Why adopt the Book of Praise in the Sabbath-school in preference to other collections? We shall mention several of a number of strong reasons which might be given.

1. *Because of the facility offered for the frequent use of Psalms in the Sabbath-school.*

We Presbyterians maintain, and rightly, that in the psalms we have the highest types of praise. Yet, as a matter of fact, in the great majority of our Sabbath-schools psalms are rarely, if ever, heard. No copies of the Book of Praise are sold which do not contain as Part I. either selections