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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1889.

The Lesson Notes.

Two or three correspondents have complained that the Lesson Notes in the BANNER are more difficult to use than those of last year. On the other hand, a correspondent has complained that some of the questions are too easy, that they almost answer themselves, and do not call for enough of independent thought on the part of teacher and scholar. We think that if the lessons be carefully studied, the notes will be found more helpful than ever. They are not intended to make study unnecessary, but to direct and help study. One cannot get much help from them, it is true, if one merely glances at them hastily before entering the class. But if one will give them, say ten or fifteen minutes' study a day, we venture to say that he will be better fitted than ever before to teach the lesson to others, because better taught himself. Is it not worth while making the experiment?

How to Help Missions.

A YOUNG LADY Sunday-school teacher writes as follows:—Enclosed you will find two dollars. Please accept, and devote to the missionary cause. It is the free-will offering of a small class of young girls in Welcome Sunday-school. At the first of the year, as their teacher, I wished to take some plan to awaken a deeper interest in them for others, so I made the suggestion of keeping a birthday-box, and for each one to contribute on their respective birth-

days something for the missionaries. They cheerfully and readily agreed to it. You have the result. This is an easy means of working for youthful hands.

Two Notable Gatherings.

THE World's International Sunday-school Convention, to be held in London, England, next July, promises to be an occasion of very great interest. The foremost Sunday-school workers of Great Britain and the United States will be present, and many from continental countries. The discussions will be masterly, the public addresses soul-stirring and inspiring, and the practical outcome, it is hoped, exceedingly profitable. Sunday-school workers in both countries may learn much from each other as to the improvement of their respective methods of instruction, school management, and the like. But most of all will the coming together of consecrated souls and the mutual kindling of warm and loving hearts bring a rich blessing on the Convention, and, let us pray, on the Sunday-school work throughout the world. What a change since Robert Raikes and John Wesley and his helpers went through the alleys of Bristol and London, gathering in the little neglected waifs of humanity for whose souls it seemed as if no man cared. Now in every land beneath the sun loving hearts are gathering the children to train them up in the love and fear of God. We trust that prayers will go up in every school in Canada and throughout the world that the Divine blessing may rest with signal power upon the International Sunday-school Convention.

It is probable that a considerable number of Canadians will wish to make the trip to the Old World under the double attraction of this notable gathering and of the great World's Exposition at Paris, during the coming summer. This promises to surpass anything of the sort ever attempted in the history of such industrial and artistic exhibitions. One remarkable feature will be a lofty tower, now approaching completion, nearly twice as high as any other structure of man on the earth, from whose summit a magnificent view of the pleasure city of Paris may be seen. Another instructive feature will be a series of groups of buildings, showing the progress of civilization from the earliest to the latest times; the art exhibit will probably surpass anything that the world has ever seen, and the many other departments will be very instructive.

The Rev. Dr. Withrow, editor of this periodical, has, in response to a request of a number of friends, organized an Excursion to Europe, which will give an opportunity of visiting both of these great international gatherings. Many advantages result from making up a party and securing passage and accommodation in advance at much more reasonable rates than can be secured by the individual tourist. Dr. Withrow has had much experience in foreign travel, and will

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