

Or does death seem to make life empty because of some vacant place? Then he has this thought in, Resignation:

"Let us be patient! These severe afflictions

Not from the ground arise;

But oftentimes celestial benedictions

Assume this dark disguise."

Or does the dark and rainy day at last close down for each and all in utter blackness?

Then, what of that fearful night? In answer, we may read Longfellow's, *Moriturus Salutamus*, delivered on the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation, to his surviving classmates:

"O Caesar, we who are about to die

Salute you! was the gladiator's cry

In the arena, standing face to face

With death and with the Roman populace."

So the poet apostrophized the comparatively abiding universe:

"We who are about to die

Salute you; earth and air and sea and sky

And the imperial sun that scatters down

His sovereign splendors upon grove and town."

He does not kick against the pricks, because he knows that,

"As the evening twilight fades away,
The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day."

Thus all through, like Margaret Fuller, he accepts the universe, because it is God's.

S. S. Work in the Methodist Church

By *Rev. A. C. Crews, D.D.*

General Secretary of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues

[The first of a series of articles, showing the progress of Sunday School work in various Churches.—EDITORS.]

There has been some growth in Sunday School membership in the Canadian Methodist Church during the past four years, though not so much as might have been expected. Our entire Sunday School force, which includes Home Department and Cradle Roll, now numbers 323,729, an increase of 13,030 for the quadrennium. The average attendance of scholars shows an increase of 5,852, and we have 1,162 more officers and teachers at work than four years ago.

The Sunday School is more and more regarded as the finest field for evangelistic

work. During the past year, 13,810 scholars have united with the church, an increase of 1,724.

About \$3,000 is expended each year in establishing new Sunday Schools, and in assisting poor schools in remote neighborhoods to obtain papers and supplies. This fund is provided by collections from the schools.

Special attention has recently been paid to developing the missionary spirit in the Sunday Schools, with good results. In the past four years, the schools have contributed nearly \$100,000 for missions, an increase of \$15,186. By giving the school some special object for support, unusual interest has been created. The Chentu Hospital in China has been materially helped by contributions from the Sunday Schools.

The Home Department, which now numbers nearly 15,000, has steadily grown since its inception.

The church has not adopted any course of study of its own for teachers, but has coöperated with the various Provincial Associations, and the schools have been urged to use the course outlined by the Association of their own Province. There has been a steady, though not rapid increase, in the number of schools conducting teacher training classes. In Toronto, a school, with evening classes, for this purpose, has been carried on with a considerable degree of success for the past two years, under the auspices of the Toronto Methodist S. S. Association.

Realizing the importance of qualifying pastors to do Sunday School work, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools has, during the past three years, delivered a course of lectures on this subject to the theological students of the colleges in Toronto, Montreal, and Sackville, N.B. A number of the best books on Sunday School work are also placed in the course of study for probationers for the ministry.

Teachers have been materially helped by the Summer Schools and Bible Institutes, numbering 24, which have been held in various parts of the Dominion.

The Supplemental Lesson Course was authorized by the last General Conference, and has been introduced into quite a number