

# The Teachers' Monthly.

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## OUR OWN LESSON HELPS.

At its meeting in Toronto, on September 10th, the General Assembly's S. S. Committee, decided to publish a complete outfit of lesson helps for our own Schools. Before doing so, however, it appeared due as courtesy to the Presbyterian Board of Publication at Philadelphia that we should give it the opportunity of making some offer looking in the direction of an arrangement similar to that by which the publications of the Methodist Book Concern of New York are republished by the Toronto Methodist Book and Publishing House. Accordingly last February the convener wrote to the business Superintendent enquiring as to the terms on which the "Westminster" publications could be re-issued in Canada, as is done by the Methodists in the case of the "Berean" series. In reply he offered to print for us a Canadian edition, making what additions and elisions we desired (for which changes we were to pay), and give us agent's commission on subscriptions received. The committee did not agree to this proposal. The alterations necessary, especially about the time of "Independence" and "Decoration" days, but, indeed in almost every issue of the "Teacher" and illustrated papers, would eat up the commission received. But had the proposal been as pecuniarily profitable as could be desired the Committee did not think that it was proper for the representatives of our General Assembly to assume the role of mere agents of a foreign publishing house. The convener then made the counter proposal that the Board should furnish us with duplicate plates, permit us to make such alterations in them as we pleased, refer all orders from Canada in future to us and receive from us in return a royalty upon our subscription list. We would then control the whole business in Canada. This is exactly the arrangement between the Methodist publishing houses in Toronto and New York. This offer the Board refused to consider and in a subsequent letter its representative writes, "I do not feel, therefore, that it is at all likely that we shall be able to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the question, and I think it is hardly worth while for us to carry on any further negotiations." Stripped of polite phrases the answer was "We have a lucrative business in Canada and we do not mean to relinquish it. If you will be our agents, pay for all you ask us to do for you, and work to swell the subscription list which we handle, we will avail ourselves of your help, give you just what other agents are now getting and supply your schools, as now, direct from Philadelphia." We think that the General Assembly will approve of our declining to accept such terms.

Upon the loyalty with which our schools stand by the committee in its attempt to supply them with lesson helps of their own depends the whole future of the organized work under the care of the General Assembly. If those who are now using American publications will favour us with their orders for 1896 we shall at once have a revenue sufficient to pay the salary of a General Superintendent and Editor. The cost of administration and publication will be fully met. The S. S. department of our church will be **endowed** with a permanent income. The whole collection on "Children's Day" could then be devoted to aggressive S. S. Missionary work. What a magnificent prospect of helpfulness to our weaker schools and neglected districts this opens up. Will you make it possible by ordering your lesson helps for 1896 from the convener of the committee Rev. T. T. FOTHERINGHAM 107 Hazen St. St. John N. B? Sample packages will be ready early in November.