

not give us if we will only wait until it is ripe. How after a little patient waiting does each day bring some new fruit to our longing lips; how is every taste of the soul gratified, and every element of our nature suited as we patiently wait, and then accept the ripe, rich boon at God's willing hand! Sometimes we may have to wait and watch a long while before the hour to enjoy comes, but the longer we patiently wait the choicer will be the blessing.

Sunday School Advocate.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 14, 1865.

With this issue we commence the new volume of the SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVOCATE, which will be printed and published at the Office of the *Christian Guardian*, and will be on sale at the Wesleyan Book Room, Toronto.

By this new arrangement we have ventured to offer the paper at a reduced rate; but this reduction in the price is made with the conviction, that as home and cheap publications are more highly valued than imported, we shall secure a large addition to our subscription list.

We therefore earnestly and affectionately urge on the Ministers, Superintendents, Teachers and Sabbath School Scholars, to use their best efforts to give this friend of the Sabbath Schools as warm and extensive an introduction to their schools and families as possible.

No labour or expense will be spared to make this semi-monthly visitor, as heretofore, a messenger of "PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD-WILL TOWARD ALL MEN," and to cause the trumpet to continue to echo the soul-charming invitation uttered by the Saviour of all men, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

Earnestly do we pray that the combined effort may awaken in the hearts of parents the response—

"We bring them, Lord, in thankful hands,
And yield them up to thee;
Joyful that we ourselves are thine,
Thine let our offspring be."

Increased Interest taken in the Sabbath School.

The Conference at its last Session, in the City of London, recommended the formation of Wesleyan Sabbath Schools, wherever six or eight children could be gathered together, and that the Wesleyan Sabbath School Libraries and Catechisms be introduced as far as practicable into these Schools, and into the families of our people: and that the *Sunday School Advocate* should be preferred to any other similar publication.

It also directed the observance of the Rule of Discipline which requires, "That every Superintendent, or his colleague, shall preach at least one Sermon, at each appointment on his Circuit or Mission, during the year on the importance and advantage of Sunday Schools."

There are, in connexion with the Wesleyan Church in Canada, 749 Sabbath Schools; 6513 Officers and Teachers; 3743 Bible Class Scholars; 46572 Scholars;—379 of these are meeting in class;—and 109,444 Volumes in the Libraries.

Should these Schools take on an average each, 15 copies of the *Sunday School Advocate* it would amount to 11235 copies. The Book Steward will be happy to furnish this or a larger number immediately. A good supply of the Sunday School Books are also on hand at the Book Room, which will be forwarded to order.

The Editor of the *Sunday School Advocate* will be very glad to receive articles for the paper, addressed to him at the Wesleyan Book Room in Toronto.

FADING LEAVES.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—

Did you ever think of the wonderful change that Spring makes in the forest? In the Winter, the trees all stand naked and leafless, creaking as they sway in the frosty blast. No birds sing in their branches, and no boys and girls take shelter under their shadows. Then Spring breathes in the soft zephyrs of May, and the whole scene is changed. Every tree wears a splendid robe of green. The streams that were silent and frozen, during our stern Canadian winter, sing and sparkle in the sun; and the birds in the groves lift up their voices, and sing as sweetly as the children at a Sunday-School Anniversary. The greatness and goodness of God is displayed in these wonderful changes of the seasons; for all these events are under his direction, and take place in obedience to the laws by which he governs all created things.

But the glory of Summer soon passes away. Every bright and beautiful thing in this world only lasts a little while. Perhaps there is no country in the world where the fading leaves are more beautiful than in Canada; especially those of the maple, the oak, and some kinds of the ash. Some seasons they are more beautiful than others—that depends upon the time of the first visits of Jack Frost; they are most beautiful when the frost comes late. I have read the statement, that it is the first touch of frost that dyes the leaves with these beautiful colors. I do not think this is correct. I don't think our surly friend, Mr. Frost, can paint so well. I believe the frost tends to make the leaves brown and brittle; and the change in the color of the leaf is the result of its failing to receive a fresh supply of the sap, which contains the coloring matter in solution. When several colors are blended, to form a new color, the withdrawal of any one of these will, of course, change the mixed color to something else.

But I must not fail to remind you, that in the Bible a leaf is given as an emblem of man: "WE ALL DO FADE AS A LEAF." All the emblems used in the word of God to represent human life, remind us that it is short and uncertain. The life of man is compared to "a flower of the field;" to "the grass that withereth;" to "a vapor that appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away;" to "a dream" that is soon forgotten; and to "a shadow" that flits past and is seen no more.

Now, you will understand that when human beings are compared to these things, it does not mean that they are like them in all respects. A man does not look at all like a leaf or like a flower—but he is like them in this one respect, that in a very short time he fades away, and all his strength and beauty crumbles into dust. Do not forget this, that when one thing is said to be like another, it does not mean like in all respects, but in some one respect only.

When THE BIBLE says, "We all do fade as a leaf," it teaches us many important lessons—all the leaves fade. So all must certainly die. The beech leaves rustling in the wintery breeze, after all the rest have fallen, seem like some aged persons that linger behind the rest of their generation; but they, too, soon follow the rest—the life of the leaf is short—it soon fades. So our stay is very short in this world, compared with the length of eternal life. The Bible says, "Here we have no continuing city." Now, if life is so short and uncertain, we should be HUMBLE; for we are all dependent upon God, and we "know not what a day may bring forth." We should be DILIGENT in doing the work of God, while he spares us; for "there is no work nor device in the grave whither thou goest."

We should be PATIENT under all our sorrows; for the time in which we will have to suffer is short "Weeping may endure for a night; but joy cometh in the morning." We should THINK MORE ABOUT HEAVEN, and less about this world; "for the things that are seen are temporal; but the things that are not seen are eternal." I have not mentioned where the texts of scripture I have quoted are to be found; because I want the children to find them all out them-

selves, before they get their next *Advocate*. Now, if the children like what I have written this time, I will try and write a little more some other time; and if they don't like it, I will just resign in favor of some one who can do better.

Toronto, Oct., 1865.

UNCLE EDWARD.

THE PICTURE GALLERY.

Well, here we are at last, Uncle Alick, said a curly-headed little boy of some seven summers to a fine white-headed old man, here we are in the gallery at last, and what a number of pictures! Here is one very much like the picture that hangs in Uncle George's parlour, which he, says my Mamma, painted when she was living with him. Yes, said the old man, very like it indeed. It is a representation of the "Virgin and Child;" but can you tell what this represents, pointing to a very excellent painting of the "Worship of the Wise Men?" O yes! said Fred: that is the Saviour in the manger—there are the oxen—and there is the star that went before them—and there are the camels, that carried the presents—and there is Mary and Joseph—and here are the wise men worshipping him—just as in the second chapter of St. Matthew. Here is another, you can tell what that is by the card, "The Flight into Egypt." Yes, that is in St. Matthew, too. But this Fred continued Uncle Alick, appears to be the best of this series. O yes! said Fred: we read about that in Luke, it is the picture of "Christ in the Temple." Our teacher, last Sunday, told us about it—that when Joseph and Mary were going home from Jerusalem, the child Jesus tarried behind, and they thought he was lost, but afterwards found him in the temple, among the lawyers and others, hearing them and asking them questions; and I wondered what the questions would be about,—did you ever hear about them in your big Bible, Uncle Alick? Well, said the old man, I never found anything in my Bible about it; but a good many years ago, when I took a great interest in the conversion of the Jews, I read an old book that contained some very strange information about the Lord Jesus Christ, and there was something about the subject of this picture which I will relate to you as we walk home. It is said that when Jesus was in the temple, the learned doctors were disputing about rest. There was, it is said, the Rabbi Judah, and his brethren, called the Seven Pillars of Wisdom. One said, that rest for the soul was found by the man who had obtained sufficient wealth without sin; another said, it was fame, and the praise of all men; another said, it was power to rule the state; another said, it consisted only in a happy home; another said, that rest was found in old age, rich, powerful, famous, and surrounded by children; a sixth said, that all these were vain, unless a man kept the ceremonial law of Moses; and Rabbi Judah said, "Ye have all said well; only, in order that ye may find rest, it is necessary that ye keep the traditions of the elders."

But in the court upon the pavement sat a little child, and He said—"But, Fathers, he only findeth rest who loveth God with all his heart, and mind, and soul, and loveth his brother as himself. This is greater than fame, and wealth, and power; and he who has it is happier than a happy home; happy without it; better than honoured age; he is a law unto himself, and above all traditions." Then were the Seven Pillars of Wisdom astonished, and they said, "When Christ cometh, shall he tell us greater things than these?" And they were all embarrassed when he said to Rabbi Ben Israel—"Rabbi, when the Messiah cometh, which is called Christ, will he teach ceremony or love?" Rabbi, tell me, if you please, what is the law that converteth the soul? Rabbi, thou hast said, that when Messiah cometh he shall sit on the throne of David,—how then shall he grow up as a root out of a dry ground? Then said the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, thou hast led us to the gate of difficulty. Fred lost not a word of what his Uncle Alick had related.