

WHAT IS HEAVEN?

"WHAT is Heaven?" I asked a little child;
"All joy!" and in her innocence she smiled.

I asked the aged, with care oppressed:
"All suffering o'er, Oh! Heaven, at last, is rest!

I asked a maiden, meek and tender-eyed:
"It must be love!" she modestly replied.

I asked the artist, who adored his art:
"Heaven is all beauty!" spoke his raptured heart.

I asked the poet, with his soul afire:
"Tis glory—glory!" and he struck his lyre.

I asked the Christian, waiting her release:
A halo round her, low she murmured "Peace."

So all may look with hopeful eyes above,
'Tis beauty, glory, joy, rest, peace, and love!

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 20, 1884.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AID AND
EXTENSION FUND
COLLECTION.

BY order of the Sunday-school Board, the Editor who is also Sunday-school Secretary, is instructed to call the attention of all superintendents of circuits and superintendents of schools to article 354 on page 159 of the Methodist Discipline, which reads as follows:

"An annual collection in aid of Sabbath-school work shall be taken up in all our schools, to be called the Sabbath-school Aid and Extension Fund collection. It is recommended that this collection be taken up at the open session of the school on the Quarterly Review Sunday in September [September 28th], or at such other time as may be found most convenient. It shall be the duty of superintendents of circuits and districts to see that such collections are taken up."

This duty, however, is often neglected. Many schools omit to take up this collection, and at the District Meeting the minister often pays out of his own pocket what the school should have paid, or else the collection is altogether overlooked. Some circuits where there are four or five schools pay only \$1, an average of 20 or 25 cents per school. This fund, while comparatively small, is doing a great work in planting new schools, and helping poor schools

in far-off missions in the backwoods—on the distant prairies, in the wilds of Muskoka, in the valley of the Ottawa, in the new villages along the Canada Pacific Railway, among the mountains of British Columbia, and in the fishing villages on the shores of Newfoundland.

These mission schools are encouraged to help themselves as much as possible, and this Aid and Extension Fund makes up the balance that they are unable to pay. A missionary in Newfoundland writes: "It would interest you to know that the school scholars make a collection of dried fish for their papers, and then turn some into money and hand it over to me. I hope to get the cost before long. The wet season this summer down here has hindered us much in that line."

A missionary in New Brunswick, who has established several new schools, writes: "The people are very poor, and the Missionary Society is truly doing important work for God among this and some other outlying places on this circuit, so any grant which the Sabbath-school Board can make us will be a blessing to our work. I am sure our Sabbath-school papers are doing no small work for Methodism and Christianity in the bounds of this Conference."

A missionary near the Rocky Mountains who has just started three new schools—one forty miles away—writes: "If the people were able to furnish the schools with papers, etc., I would be the last one to call on the Sabbath-school Mission Fund to aid us; but, my brother, they are not. I expect to raise quite a good sum by collection for the Sabbath-school Fund, but in the meantime must call on the Society for help. I find the other Churches are doing all they can to catch the young people; but by hard labour and help from our brethren in Ontario I think we can hold our own. So I may say, brother, if we won't aid the people in Sabbath-school work, others will, and that right early."

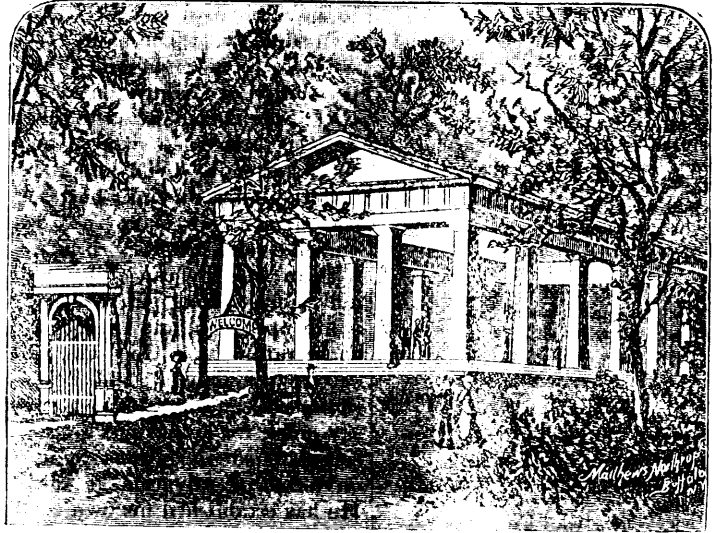
A missionary in British Columbia, writing for Sunday-school papers, says: "I find that about half the people I visit never come to church nor read any religious literature from one year to another."

A missionary in Algoma writes:—"Under very adverse circumstances we have started a Sunday-school, but it is very hard work to keep up the interest without papers. Could you not manage to get a donation for us for one year, and I think I am safe in saying that in another year we will be self-supporting."

This is the sort of work that this fund is doing. We are sure it will commend itself to every school in the land. Let it have a good collection, and hand over the money to the superintendent minister.

OLD BOOKS WANTED!

THE Secretary of the S. S. Aid and Extension Fund has a large number of applications from poor schools for donations of second library-books. He has sent out in all about 10,000 books, and has none on hand. Will not schools send him their old libraries for this purpose. We will allow, if desired, ten per cent. of the value of the books given, and pay express charges. Address, Rev. W. H. Withrow.



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C. L. S. C., 1884-85.

THE Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle is a school at home—a school after school—a college for one's own house, by which he may become acquainted in a general way with the school and college world, into which so many of our young people go, about which their parents know so little, and the benefits of which college people themselves need to recall in their later years.

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The course of study for 1884-85 is as follows:

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Beginner's Hand Book of Chemistry, Professor Appleton. \$1.

Scientific readings in the *Chautauquan*; The Circle of the Sciences; Huxley on Science; Home Studies in Chemistry, by Professor J. T. Edwards; Easy Lessons in Animal Biology, by Dr. J. H. Wythe; the Temperance Teachings of Science; and Studies in Kitchen Science and Art. (The *Chautauquan* is published by T. L. Flood, Meadville, Pa. Price \$1 50 per annum. Ten numbers, October to July.)

HISTORY AND LITERATURE.

Barnes' Brief History of Greece. 60 cents.

Preparatory Greek Course in English, Wilkinson. \$1.

College Greek Course in English, Wilkinson. \$1.

Chautauqua Text Book, No. 5. Greek History, Vincent. 10 cents.

Cyrus and Alexander, Abbot. 70 cents.

The Art of Speech, vol. i. Dr. L. T. Townsend. 50 cents.

Readings in the *Chautauquan*: Talks About Good English, Glimpses of Ancient Greek Life, and Greek Mythology.

RELIGION.

The Character of Jesus, Horace Bushnell; cloth, 60 cents; paper, 40 cents. How to Help the Poor, Mrs.