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Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, JUNE, 1885.

To the Sunday-School Workers of the United States and Canada.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, April 17, 1885.

The first meeting of the Third International Lesson Committee was held in this city on Wednesday and Thursday of the present week. All the members of the Committee were present except the Rev. Dr. Hoge, of Richmond, Va.

A great number of suggestions, petitions, and memorials, on a variety of subjects, were received.

All of them, except such as were anonymous, were most carefully considered and most conscientiously acted upon. They were then referred to a sub-committee, consisting of the Rev. Drs. John Hall, John A. Broadus, and John Potts, who were requested to embody in a compact form the views and conclusions brought out by the discussion. This sub-committee afterward presented the subjoined report, which was adopted as the sense of the entire Lesson Committee—

Having been appointed as a sub-committee to report upon communications addressed to the International Sunday-school Lesson Com-

mittee, we beg to offer the following statement:

The memorials and other communications addressed to the Committee, through its officers or members, were submitted and carefully read by the body. Many contained strong expressions of approbation of the lessons selected, and acknowledgments of the good effected, through the blessing of God, were gratefully noted. It is hardly needful to say that there was not unanimity in the recommendations thus conveyed. A large number of friends had signed petitions with a uniform call for Quarterly Temperance Lessons. These came from various sections of the country, and were prepared without any regard to denominations. Appreciating the earnestness with which the cause of Temperance Reform is being prosecuted, the Committee, while including the Scripture references to the subject in their course, have arranged to suggest—for the year for which they have made their selection—lessons on *Temperance*, and on *Missions*,* to be used where it is deemed best by the managers of schools in the room of, or in addition to, the Quarterly Review.

Suggestions have been earnestly made to the Committee on a variety of matters which had been most carefully discussed in the progress of arranging the previous courses. To some friends, for example, short lessons seem desirable. They are so to those who have great facilities for preparation, and ample intellectual furniture; but, unhappily, large numbers are not so furnished, and then we are especially bound to consider. Many such teachers find all they have to say upon a short lesson exhausted while time yet remains. In like manner, modifications of our plan have been suggested, the carrying out of which would involve the appearance of settling matters about which the Churches are not yet agreed, or would involve what we are precluded from entering upon by the Constitution of the Committee.

The most careful consideration has been given to the earnest wishes of the friends who have thus communicated with us. Information was obtained not only concerning the condition of things in the great centers of intellectual activity, but also in less favoured but wide regions, both East, West, and South. The proportion of lessons from the Old Testament has been deemed undue by some; but the weight of evidence before the Committee was to the effect that great and wide-spread good had been the result of the revived and earnest study of the Old Testament portion of the Canon.

To some there is an appearance of abruptness in the transition from passage to passage; but this is rendered inevitable by the amount of Scripture over which the mind of the pupils has to be carried as intelligently as possible, and within the time to which the Committee is confined by the instructions under which it

* Except for the last quarter.