

## Our Contributors.

### Ways of Working.

BY UNCLE WILL.

The Summer School at Knox College is the beginning of a new era in Sabbath School work. The large attendance and enthusiasm of the student augers well for the future.

One wonders why those in authority have been so backward in taking this forward step. The teachers themselves have been crying out for just such helps, and while thus eager to avail themselves of such educational advantages, they have not stood still waiting for the leaders to make a move; and no doubt they have forced this step by their taking advantage of all local movements for Biblical Study.

In the sphere of Primary work, no society has done better than the Toronto Primary Teachers Union, of which many of Toronto's kindergartners are active members. And so that the work may go forward with renewed interest, and the two weeks of training be put to its best work, let now the various Sabbath Schools organize for the winter's work by continuing the study thus happily begun. It would be well if possible that two or three Sabbath Schools unite to have union meetings for study of the lesson.

Such a union was carried on in Toronto some few years ago at St. Enoch's church, while Mr. Wm. Selby was Superintendent there. The meetings were held weekly in the school room and during the two years in which they were held were well attended. The course while including the study of the Sabbath School lesson and the shorter catechism weekly, was diversified by lectures from prominent educationists principally pedagogical, of which some eight were given during each season.

I have before me "Handbook for 1902-3 of the Midland Association of Sunday School Unions. (England) of which W. J. Harris, 173 Holly Road, Handsworth, Staffs, England is Honorary Secretary." This association provides lecturers to any school making application, and to show the scope I cull a few of the subjects: "Evening Homes for Working Girls." "The Practical Side of the Sunday School Teacher's Work." "Visitation of Scholars." "What the Ritualists are doing with the children." "Notes from a Minister's diary in reference to Sunday Schools." "The Child in Modern Life." "How may we best improve the Singing in the Sunday School." "Some observations on Sunday School Teaching." "Evening Recreation Classes as a help to Sunday School Work." "Twenty years of Sunday School Work and what they have taught me." "The Ideal Teacher."

The lecturers number eighteen with some thirty lectures. Deputations are always ready to visit and address meetings upon general subjects in connection with Sunday School Work, and besides the above—Lectures to Children; Addresses to Young Men; Lime Light and Lantern Views; all of which show that in order to keep abreast of the times we must be up and doing. We have with us "the dew of youth" in our vast heritage. When the Old Country is putting forth such energy and christian enterprise we should show ourselves worthy sons of such sires and conquer Canada for Christ.

### Our Manitoba Letter.

BY JUNIUS M.

No prettier place for a town could be found in Manitoba than the situation of Baldur, at the summit of the Tiger hills, amidst the Pembina mountains. To the south of the village is a high knoll which commands the view of four pretty little grass surrounded lakes, and also gives a good view of the bluffs across the prairie. It was here Rock Lake Presbytery held its latest meeting on Tuesday evening, July 7th. The Presbyterians here, although few in number, are a very resourceful congregation. They are the happy possessors of a brick church valued at over \$3,000 and almost free of debt. The brick body of the church is set on a stone foundation and is a credit to the town. The pastor, Rev. Chas. McKay, lives at another ideal town a few miles further west. The town also boasts of an Anglican church and a Methodist, although at the present time the Methodists are engaged in building a new church and having converted their old building into a dwelling use the Presbyterian.

Twelve families constitute the congregation. The Sabbath School is under the superintendency of Mr. D. J. Hartley, Principal of the Intermediate School there, who takes a deep interest in the moral as well as the educational. Last year this Sabbath School with an average of 30 scholars contributed \$100 to the Schemes of the Church and as this money did not go through any of the regular channels of the Church it is not reported in the blue book.

To the north of the town, at the end of a long drive of 7 miles amid rolling prairie interspersed with woods and lakes and tiny streams, some of the Presbyterians visited the Icelandic church and hall. The church is capable of seating three or four hundred and the lesson helps for the Sabbath School are in English as well as the Library, which is a very good one for a country church in Manitoba. The hall is suitably draped with British emblems and flags and red, white and blue bunting and exhibits the loyalty of the Manitoba Icelanders.

But let us get back to the Baldur church at half past seven in the evening. The Rock Lake Presbytery is regularly constituted, the minutes are read; then comes the report of Mr. S. Polson, of Swan Lake, of our Indian work there, for in this Presbytery we have one foreign mission. Mr. Polson describes the school work as improving. The homes now being erected are of the third grade and are good, comfortable houses. The teacher we have engaged is an Anglican by profession but does good work for our Master among the Indians, whose language he speaks and to whom he is much devoted.

At 8 o'clock Mr. Thos. Beveridge, B.D., Manitou, opens the public meeting by discussing the Sabbath School work and how to bridge the chasm between the home and the school. He recommends the Home Class and also Teacher Training. The discussion is taken up by Presbytery and a number express their opinions. Mr. D. J. Hartley is invited by Presbytery to speak on the subject and presents his thoughts very much to the profit of ministers who are not teachers.

After the public meeting is closed regular

routine business is again entered upon. The Augmentation and Home Mission reports presented by the father of the Presbytery, Mr. Jas. Farquharson, Pilot Mound, Mr. M. C. Rumball, Morden, reported re Standing Committees. Reports were then given by the Commissioners to the General Assembly and near midnight Presbytery adjourned to meet in September at Manitoba. Mr. Chas. McKay, Moderator for the current year, occupied the chair and Mr. Wm. Caven, Clerk, had business as usual in good order.

Winnipeg, July 21, 1903.

### Where There Is No Vision.

The ancient Romans observed the beautiful custom of holding the face of every newborn babe towards the sky in token that we are born to look above the world. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Let a man forget God and truth and the immortal life, and forthwith he begins to deteriorate. Emerson says that, living under the lofty domes of great cathedrals, the most menial attendant acquires a stately step, so under the influence of lofty visions there comes into the humblest life a strength and purity it could not otherwise have. As well might one expect to grow prize roses without the sun and the summer as to grow into beauty of character without high ideals.

We need a more constant vision of God. Underneath a pretty sketch in which the shrubbery and flowers and walks of a garden were plainly visible on the surface was written "Here is the garden, but where is the gardener?" After turning the picture into every conceivable position for some time in vain, at last the right angle was obtained, and suddenly the features of the gardener stood out so plainly, that where before one could see nothing but the garden now nothing could be seen but the gardener. Life is full of God's presence for those who have eyes to see aright. Every holy thought and kindly deed is but the reflection of His face—all the glory of earth and sky and sea is but the hem of His garment. He who is influencing men to close their eyes to the Divine presence is preparing them to run down the steepest road to sin and ruin. On the other hand, those who in any measure are engaged in quickening the vision of God in the hearts of others, whether it be the mother with her child or the teacher with the class are doing the highest possible service for humanity. We need a truer vision of one another. Under the influence of competition and rivalry we lose sight of the sacredness of human life and in our cynicism we make it a cheap and nasty thing. We despise and trample upon one another so that multitudes

Long to leave the vain low strife,  
The tug for place and power,  
The passions and the cares that wither life,  
And waste its little hour.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said "If you look at a man you see just enough to make you suspicious of him. If you look into a man you see enough to fill your heart with compassion and to lead you to help him." That is how Christ looked at men. He saw more clearly into human hearts than any of us but he never despaired of human nature. There is a legend that while walking with His disciples they came upon a dead dog by the wayside. The disciples could not conceal the disgust they felt, but the Saviour said: "How white and beautiful his teeth are!" He always sees in the most degraded and sinful some touch of hallowing beauty through which His redeeming grace may come.