

OUR PERIODICALS.

The best, the cheapest, the most entertaining
the most popular.

	Yearly Subscription
Christian Guardian, weekly.....	\$1 00
Methodist Magazine and Review, monthly.....	2 00
Magazine and Review, and Guardian or Wesleyan.....	2 75
Magazine and Review, Guardian and Onward.....	3 25
The Wesleyan, Halifax, weekly.....	1 00
Sunday-school Banner, monthly.....	0 60
Onward, pp. 4to, weekly, under 5 copies.....	0 60
5 copies and upwards.....	0 50
Pleasant Hours, App. 4to, weekly, single copies.....	0 30
Less than 20 copies.....	0 25
Over 20 copies.....	0 24
Sunbeam, fortnightly, less than 10 copies.....	0 15
10 copies and upwards.....	0 12
Happy Days, fortnightly, less than 10 copies.....	0 15
10 copies and upwards.....	0 12
Dew Drops, weekly.....	0 07
Per quarter.....	0 02
Berean Senior Quarterly.....	0 20
Berean Leaves, 100 copies per month.....	5 50
Berean Intermediate Quarterly, 100 copies per quarter.....	6 00
Quarterly Review Service. By the year, 24 cents a dozen; \$2 per 100. Per quarter, 6 cents a dozen; per 100.....	0 50

THE ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE

WILLIAM BRIGGS,
Methodist Book and Publishing House,
TORONTO.

C. W. COATES,
2176 St. Catherine St.,
Montreal, Que.

S. F. HURSTIS,
Meth. Book Room,
Halifax, N.S.

Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1900.

First Methodist Sunday-School.

The centenary of the first Methodist Sunday-school in London was celebrated a few months ago in the City Road chapel. The attendance at the various departments of this Sunday-school numbers 3,670 children, young people and adults. The attendance at the day-school averages seven hundred and twenty, the ragged-school 1,050, the cripples' school forty-five. Its workers number one hundred and thirty. This Sunday-school was opened at Golden Lane, Old Street, April 22nd, 1788, by Mr. Alexander Mather, and within a month there were one hundred and ten children in attendance.

The Sunday-school, as an institution, was of Methodist origin. The credit is usually given to Robert Raikes, but it belongs to a Methodist woman, Sophia Cook, who afterwards became the wife of

Samuel Bradburn, the Demosthenes of the Methodist pulpit. Miss Cook and Robert Raikes were one day talking together about the poor children in the streets of Gloucester, and in the course of their conversation Raikes asked what could be done for them. Miss Cook replied: "Let us teach them, and take them to church." The suggestion was acted upon immediately. Raikes and Miss Cook became the first Sunday-school teachers.

The idea spread, and schools were organized in other places. Among the first were those at Leeds. There the town was divided into seven districts, and in a short time the schools numbered twenty-six, with over two thousand scholars taught by forty-five masters. The masters were mostly pious men, and were paid from one to two shillings per Sunday, according to the value of their services. Four "inquisitors" visited each school in turn, to ascertain who were absent, and then called at the homes of absentees, or looked them up in the street. Each master had a written list of his scholars, which he was required to call every Sunday at half past one and half past five o'clock. The sessions of the schools began at one o'clock. The children were instructed in reading, writing and religion until three, when they were taken to their respective churches. After service they were conducted back to school, where some book was read, a psalm sung, and the service concluded with prayer. Five clergymen visited the schools, and addressed the scholars. The expenses of the twenty-six schools for the first year were \$1,150.

Mr. Wesley, writing of his visit to Otley, July 18th, 1784, says: "Before service I stepped into the Sunday-school, which contains two hundred and forty children, taught every Sunday by the several masters and superintended by the curate. So many children in one parish are restrained from open sin and taught a little good manners, at least, as well as to read the Bible. I find these schools springing up wherever I go. Perhaps God may have a deeper end therein than men are aware of. Who knows but some of these schools may become nurseries for Christians."

Mr. Wesley's prophecy has been fulfilled, and the Sunday-school has become not only a nursery for Christians, but a nursery for the Church. In the Methodist Episcopal Church alone the number of Sunday-school scholars almost exceeds that of the membership, being 2,633,260, while including officers and teachers it is 150,000 in excess of the church membership. It is an interesting fact that the