

OUR PUBLICATIONS.

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, Sup. 4to, weekly, under 5 copies ..	0 60
5 copies and upwards	0 40
Pleasant Hours, 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 12
10 copies and upwards	0 11
Berean Leaves, 100 copies per month	5 50
Berean 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

Address— WILLIAM BRIGGS,
Publisher, Toronto.

C. W. COATES, S. F. HUESTIS,
2176 St. Catharine St., Meth. Book Room,
Montreal, Que. Halifax, N.S.

Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1896.

Attacks on the International Lesson System.

THERE seems to be in some quarters a dead set made against the International Sunday-school lessons. A few persons, having apparently fads of their own, have been pushing them vigorously and finding no end of fault with the selections made by the committee representing all the Churches which, with slight change in its personnel, has had this matter in charge for the last score of years.

A writer in a Buffalo paper has the following attack:

"Some of our leading religious papers have, from time to time, criticized the 'International Sunday-school Lesson' committee for its lack of common sense in selecting passages for Sunday-school lessons. After a thorough trial of the lessons of the last quarter we endorse unqualifiedly their strictures. If ever such a selection is again made, we should advise schools to abandon the regular lessons and exercise their own judgment in making the selection. We are of the opinion that that time-honoured committee should be relieved of further responsibility in that capacity. It has outlived its usefulness."

One would almost think from this that the committee had gone outside of the Bible altogether. We are told that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

From almost any passage profitable lessons could be adduced. The judicious selections made by the committee have given the rising generation a more comprehensive understanding of the Bible as a whole than we think any generation has ever had before.

This fault-finding for the most part does not come from persons engaged in the active work of teaching, as was evident ed by the overwhelming vote in favour of one lesson for the whole school and for all the schools at the International convention at St. Louis. Of course if this system could be broken up and a lot of rival and copyright systems established, each protesting its own superiority, there might be a financial profit to their inventors, but we think great loss to the Sunday-school work as a whole. On this subject the *Pilgrim Teacher*, of Boston, has the following paragraphs:

"It was disappointing to some that at the International Sunday-school convention there was no discussion of the lesson system. The time assigned for such discussion was wholly taken up in considering the instructions to be given to the new Lesson Committee. This was wholly fortuitous, as any one present could see. Nevertheless, it has led to the charge that the convention was 'packed' with friends of the International Lesson System by a most careful selection of delegates in the State Associations. Never was a more absurd charge made. That is not the way that Sunday-school workers do. If the chairman of the International Executive Committee had suggested such a thing to the various State Associations, his hold upon them would have been gone forever. It was not needful for him to deny any knowledge of such a conspiracy, for all know that he is above such a thing, let alone the fact of its impossibility. Had the time not been entrenched upon at all, the sentiment would have been discovered to be, as it was at St. Louis, all one way. Possibly some might have been induced to have spoken in criticism, but if there had been any considerable dissatisfaction it would have made itself felt in spite of any obstacle. The fact is, the vast majority are too well satisfied to grumble.

"The new committee, however, is not wedded to any 'system.' If any new scheme of lessons can be shown to it which is better than the ones which have been followed, it will be quick to adopt it. For it is somewhat essential that it shall show an advancement on anything which has gone before. Some change will be necessary even if for no other reason than that of novelty. Now, therefore, is the opportunity for those whose brains are teeming with lesson

courses
benefit

The

"W

short ti

score of

great

repeated

in the h

the exce

Lesson

plan it t

ten hour

of Ameri

the com

individua

judgment

improve

If anyone

lessons fo

an appeal

Lesson C

and fair

proves ar

adapted

uniform l

"The S

have a go

to make

thing, wh

authority

which they

to try har

persons r

tional con

some speci

Now that

teacher—an

some cour

will occupy

wise be wast

is over, lea

desultory at

the powers

money of th

will be found

of cases, to

call the atte

worth Leagu

tised in oth

need not be

qua circle o

advantages o

by any of our

real and Hal

at the very

I recommend

school librari