

ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE METHODIST SUNDAY-SCHOOLS OF MONTREAL.

THE sixty-second annual gathering of the children of our Sabbath-schools was held in St. James' Church, on New Year's morning, our much-beloved Dr. Douglas in the chair. Mr. C. W. Coates, of the Book-Room, conducted the singing, assisted by a splendid orchestra of thirty-seven pieces, under the leadership of Mr. Herbert Paton. Appropriate addresses were given by Rev. Wm. Hall, M.A., of the French Institute; Rev. Dr. Wells, of the American Presbyterian Church; and Geo. Vipond, Esq., Superintendent of St. James' School; and Dr. Kelly, Principal of the High School, and Rev. C. Heine, representatives of the Presbyterian schools. The gathering was in every way a success.

On Friday evening, the annual social gathering and tea-meeting of the officers and teachers, Sunday-school workers and pastors, was held in the lecture hall of St. James' Church. At eight o'clock, Dr. Williams, Clerical President of the Sunday-school Association, called the meeting to order, and for two hours, the Sunday-school workers enjoyed the excellent addresses of Rev. C. R. Flanders, B.A., W. T. Ware, Esq., and valuable and interesting papers by Misses La Rossignal and Hersey on practical Sunday-school topics. The Secretary presented his statistical report for the year, showing twenty Sunday-schools connected with the Association. The total enrolment for the year was about the same as previous year (about five thousand officers and teachers); average attendance of the officers and teachers, 83 per cent.—an average, we think, unequalled anywhere; and the average attendance of the scholars, 75 per cent., showing an improvement over the previous year of 5 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively in the average attendance of the teachers and scholars; missionary offerings, over \$3,400, equal to 83 cents for each scholar on the rolls, or \$1.13 for each scholar, based on the average attendance of the members of the contributing schools. This speaks for itself, and shows that the missionary spirit has got possession of our scholars, some of the schools giving their entire collections to the missionary cause. Owing to enlargement of some of the schools, they used part of their collections for such purpose. We hope this year will show an advance in our missionary contributions.

J. W. B.

DEADHEADS.

IN reading the Woman's Missionary Department of the OUTLOOK for January, I was much surprised and measurably annoyed at remarks therein contained. The writer seeks to make much of the words "work and pray," I would suggest that she reverse the order,

and have it "pray and work." For had she prayed before giving herself to the work of writing said article, I cannot help thinking the good Spirit would have prompted her to a more noble effort than aspersing the character of the Methodist ministry. She suggests that "Editor" shall designate the person who supervises the ladies' department of the OUTLOOK, and not "Editress." This, I think, a wise suggestion so long as the present occupant fills the position. Editor usually suggests a masculine occupant of the official chair, and I am sure no one would ever expect from an Editress such a slashing castigation as came to the Methodist ministry in last month's OUTLOOK. From Christian womanhood we have been accustomed to look for and get refinement, tenderness and kind and truthful treatment; ribald jest, crude witticisms, truth-limping statements, and such euphonious designations of Christian ministers as "Deadheads," etc., we thought might come from the bar-rooms or gatherings of men of the baser sort, but from Christian womanhood never. The grievance seems to be three-fold, viz., ministers neither pay for the OUTLOOK nor canvass for it, but do subscribe for American missionary publications. "Out of our seven thousand subscribers we have about two thousand deadheads. These non-paying subscribers are our ministers, while many, if not most of them, are paying their money to support and build up all the American missionary periodicals they can lay their hands on." Such are the allegations of this masculine specimen of the fair sex. Now, supposing it true that every Methodist minister in the Dominion and out of it belonging to the Canadian Methodist Church receives a free copy of the OUTLOOK, it then falls hundreds short of the "about two thousand." But, then if you want to make a point against ministers and come within hundreds of the truth, I suppose it must pass. If the paper be sent to the ministers free, who is to blame? Speaking for myself (and I suppose I speak for others at the same time), I never asked the favor of a free copy. Why not send the *Methodist Magazine* and *Christian Guardian* to all our adherents, and our Sunday-school publications to all our schools, whether ordered or not, and then brand them as "Deadheads" if they do not pay up! As to whether many or most of our ministers subscribe for American publications or not I do not know. But, if with better means of knowing the truth, our fair censor gets hundreds beside the mark in speaking of the number of "Deadheads," we may take her statement with much caution when she essays to speak of those who subscribe for American publications. But supposing it true what she suggests, is it one of the newly-discovered "women's rights" to dictate to ministers how and where they shall