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## The Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, APRIL, 1884.

## The Reward of Sunday-school Work.

No Christian effort will better repay the labour expended than Sunday-school work. The teacher operates under the most propitious conditions. He applies, week by week, the hallowed influences of the Word of God to the susceptible hearts and consciences of the children of Christian homes, unhardened by long years of sin, and for the most part graciously open to divine truth. The Sunday-school is the hope of our Church. From it, more largely than from any other source, will the future membership of the Church be drawn.

We have been led into this train of thought by our observation of a very gracious work of revival in connection with the Metropolitan Church in the city, which, we doubt not, will be representative of revival work in all our churches. Here God's Spirit has, in answer to earnest prayer, been graciously poured out upon the school. In some cases whole classes have been converted, and the spirit of awakening and

inquiry has pervaded the entire school. Very touching it was at the February communion service to see whole families, some of them children of tender years, approaching the table of the Lord. This is just what we should expect. After faithful sowing of the Gospel seed, and faithful tillage of the youthful heart, why should we not expect the fruit of conversion? Let us look for it, let us work for it, let us pray for it. Let us not be satisfied merely with the instruction of the mind. Let us seek also the conviction of the conscience, the conversion of the soul. We have every warrant, every encouragement. Let us not, fellow Sunday-school workers, grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. Let the motto for this centennial year of organized Methodism on this continent be "A revival in every church and in every school."

## The S. S. Lessons for 1885.

The General Sunday-school Committee which selects the lessons for the entire continent—indeed for all the Sunday-schools in the world that will adopt the international series, as many in India, China, Japan, and the Islands of the Sea have done—have issued the plan for 1885. It comprises six months' study in the life and writings of St. Paul, Acts xx. to the end, and selections from the epistles; and six months' studies in the kings and prophets, chiefly the characters of Elijah, Elisha, and Jonah, with the Messianic prophecies of Isaiah. This is a very fine programme, and a very fitting sequel to the present year.

THE London Tablet, a Roman Catholic paper, speaks thus of the success of Messrs. Moody and Sankey. It describes Mr. Moody's preaching as inferior to that of Mr. Spurgeon and a dozen other Nonconformist preachers, and possessed neither of fiery enthusiasm nor unction; while Mr. Sankey's singing is melodious and pathetic. It then continues:—"Where, then, is the secret of their success? Well, we Catholics need make no difficulty in admitting that the undoubted zeal and earnestness of these American Evangelists is divinely blessed. '*Spiritus Domini replevit orbem terrarum.*' [The spirit of the Lord has filled the whole earth.] Nor, however defective the teaching of these missionaries may be, can we but sympathize with their hearty endeavours to bring under the influence of the Gospel, as they conceive of it, those who are living 'without God in the world.' If they make the powers of the world to come a reality, and the first of realities, to many who had not before thought of anything but this visible scene and its petty interests; if they present 'a God to pray to,' before multitudes who had only known of one 'to swear by;' if they reclaim thousands from sin to virtue—and that they do this is open to no doubt—so far, we hold that they are doing a good work, and wish them God speed." This Christian courtesy should be put down to the credit of an often bigoted Church.