

culable—only the great day shall reveal it. With the greatly widened constituency of schools resulting from Methodist union, we may anticipate a greatly increased circulation.

The kind co-operation of the brethren, both ministerial and lay, is earnestly asked to place the periodicals of the Methodist Church in all Methodist schools. Neither labour nor expense shall be spared in making them the best, the most attractive, and the cheapest lesson helps and Sunday-school papers in the world.

FOUNDING NEW SCHOOLS.

Notwithstanding the growth of our Sunday-schools, there are a very large number of appointments—there are some hundreds in the aggregate—in connection with which no Sunday-schools are yet organized. These are chiefly on the missions in the more recently settled parts of the country, and in its more sparsely-settled regions. In some cases there are union schools, where no schools of separate denominations can be maintained. But where there are no such schools the assistance of the ministers is urgently solicited, that in every place where there is Methodist preaching there may also be a Methodist Sunday-school. It is in helping this work that the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund has been most useful in the past, and may be expected to be increasingly useful in the future. Scores of new schools have been established by its help—as many as six applications having been received in a single day for aid in establishing new schools. If brethren will only organize, in every place where even a handful of children can be gathered, a school under Methodist management, the Society will grant liberal aid in the way of Sunday-school papers and lesson helps.

Special prominence will be given, as heretofore, to Canadian, Methodist, and missionary topics, especially to the mission work of our own Church, which will make our papers much better adapted for our own schools than any others can possibly be.

THE DUTY OF UNITED METHODISM.

As a result of Methodist union, the Sunday-school constituency for which this Board acts and to whose liberality it appeals is largely increased in extent. It is confidently anticipated that there shall be a corresponding increase in the efficiency and extent of its operations. Her schools are, we think, the most important sphere of the Church's work. Here she may most successfully fulfil the Saviour's parting admonition, "Feed my lambs." Here she may best guide their footsteps to the green pastures of salvation by the river of the water of life. Here she may train them for service in the Church on earth, and for endless reward in the Church on high. She cannot without recreancy to her solemn trust allow the lambs of the flock to escape from the fold and wander amid the mazes of error and sin. The school is not an end in itself, but only the nursery for the Church and for heaven. No results are satisfactory that do not secure the salvation of the

children. Their conversion is more easily secured in the tender years of youth than when their hearts have become hardened and perverted through the deceitfulness of sin. And those who are thus early converted to God, and who are trained up in Christian doctrine, and in Christian work, in Christian liberality and in Christian zeal, will be far more useful members of the Church, will be far more liberal, and intelligent, and efficient workers in the cause of God, than those who in adult years are won from the world.

We see, therefore, the solemn duty, the grave responsibility, resting upon it. How often, by willful and sinful neglect the children who have been baptized into Christ's family and nursed in the lap of piety, are allowed to drift away, away on a shoreless sea without chart or compass, to make shipwreck of their lives on the rocks and reefs of temptation and sin. O let us save the children, let us save the youth, that we may save the world! Let the motto for the year be, "a school at every appointment—a revival in every school."

(Signed) W. H. WITHERS,
Secretary of S. S. Board.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

The following extracts from a few out of the many hundreds of letters received by the Secretary of the Board, will show the thankful appreciation with which the donations to poor schools are received:

A missionary on the French Shore, Newfoundland, writes:—

"The granting of the above application will be a boon to the settlement, for we are the only evangelical denomination, and have to contend with Ritualists, who to the prestige of numbers add the influence of wealth. Our people are for the greater part of the fisherman class and can do but little more than they are doing to support Methodism in the place. We have been hindered by lack of means to push on our work, but with help from the Sunday-school Fund, we may be successful in training up the children to fear God."

Others are as follows:—

A missionary in New Brunswick, who has established several new schools, writes: "The people are very poor, and the Missionary Society is truly doing important work for God among this and some other outlying places on this circuit, so any grant which the Sabbath-school Board can make us will be a blessing to our work. I am sure our Sabbath-school papers are doing no small work for Methodism and Christianity in the bounds of this Conference."

A missionary near the Rocky Mountains who has just started three new schools—one forty miles away—writes: "If the people were able to furnish the schools with papers, etc., I would be the last one to call on the Sabbath-school Mission Fund to aid us; but, my brother, they are not. I expect to raise quite a good sum by