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# A BRIEF EXPOSITION

OF THE

CHARACTER, OPERATIONS, AND CLAIMS,

OF THE

Sunday-School Union

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

## New-Pork:

PUBLISHED BY LANE & SCOTT,

FOR THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION OF THE METRODIST EFISCOPAL CHURCH, 200 Mulberry-street.

JOSEPH LONGKING, PRINTER.

1852.



### BUSINESS ADDRESS.

All communications respecting statistics, and the general business of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. D. P. Kidder, 200 Mul-berry-street, New-York.

Funds should be remitted to the Treasurer, S. J. Goodenough, at the same place; to W. M. Doughty, Methodist Book Rooms, Cincinnati; or to J. P. Mager, Boston.

Applications for aid in behalf of Sunday schools, should be addressed, free of postage, to the Corresponding Secretary, at New-York; to J. M. PHILLIPS, Secretary of the Committee at Cincinnati; or to J. P. Macky, Secretary of the Committee at Boston. To procure books at any other place on account of the Union, a special order from an officer of the Board at New-York is necessary.

### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR AID.

Applications for aid should be signed by the Preacher in charge, and also, if practicable, by the Presiding Elder of the District. Every application should state distinctly-

1. The name of each place for which aid is asked, and the Conference,

District, and Appointment to which it belongs.

2. The average number of persons worshiping in the congregation to which the school is attached.

3. The average number of teachers engaged in the school.

4. The average number of scholars attending. 5. The average number of scholars able to read.6. The number and kind of books on hand.

7. The precise manner in which books should be forwarded. 8. The Post-Office, County, and State where the applicant may be addressed by mail.

Various other particulars might be added, according to the circumstances of the case.

Grants are often delayed for want of full information respecting some important points overlooked by the applicants.

When books are granted, notice is sent to the applicant of the amount of the grant, and of the time and manner of forwarding the books.

The receipt of books from the Union ought always to be acknowledged.

Statements respecting their usefulness should also be made to the Union in due time.

## FORM OF A BEQUEST.

"I give unto the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, established in the city of New-York, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty, the sum of dollars, for the purposes of said Union, and for which the receipt of the Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge."

Persons disposed to make bequests to the Union, are requested to be careful to adopt the above form, and also to give timely notice to the officers of the Union, in order that legacies may not be diverted from their intended object.

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## CHARACTER, OPERATIONS, AND CLAIMS

OF

## The Sunday-School Union.

REPEATED requests have been made for some publication which should set forth in a condensed and popular form, the leading facts relating to the Sunday-school operations of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In view of those requests, and of the obvious necessity of such a publication, the following pages are prepared.

### CHARACTER.

As a means of portraying the proper character of our Sunday-School Union, it will be appropriate to glance at its providential rise and progress.

#### ORIGIN OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL SYSTEM.

That system of evangelical agency now known as the Sunday-school enterprise originated in England in 1781. Robert Raikes, of Gloucester, was its founder. The following letter gives that gentleman's own account of the origin and character of the efforts made by him.

"GLOUCESTER, June 5th, 1784.

<sup>&</sup>quot;The utility of an establishment of this sort was first suggested by a group of little miserable wretches, whom I observed one day in the street, where many people employed in the pin-manufactory reside...
"I was expressing my concern to one, at their forlern and neg-

lected state; and was told, that if I were to pass through that street upon Sundays, it would shock me, indeed, to see the crowds of children, who were spending that sacred day in noise and riot, to the extreme annoyance of all decent people.

"I immediately determined to make some little effort to remedy the evil. Having found four persons, who had been accustomed the evil. Having found four persons, who had been accustomed to instruct children in reading, I engaged to pay the sum they required, for receiving and instructing such children as I should send to them every Sunday. The children were to come soon after ten in the morning, and stay till twelve: they were then to go home and return at one; and after reading a lesson, they were the conducted to church. nome and return at one; and after reading a reson, they were to be conducted to church. After church they were to be employed in repeating the catechism till half after five, and then to be dismissed, with an injunction, to go home without making a noise, and by no means to play in the street. This was the general out-R. RAIKES." line of the regulations.

Mr. Raikes probably had in the outset no idea whereunto this thing would grow. Indeed, noble and praiseworthy as his efforts were, it is probable that, like some previous efforts of a similar character, they would have soon come to an end, had not the Christian community been prepared by the grace of God to appreciate and extend them. It was the timely and efficient co-operation of such persons as Townley and Fox, Wesley and Hannah More, that gave the Sunday-school movement celebrity and a hold upon the public mind.

#### ORIGIN OF THE SYSTEM OF GRATUITOUS INSTRUCTION.

From Mr. Raikes's letter it is seen, that his teachers were paid for instructing children on the Sabbath. The Rev. John Angel James, writing on this subject, has remarked, that

"The schools were at first universally conducted by hired teach." ers. This entailed a load of pecuniary difficulty upon the plan, which, had it not been removed, must have considerably retarded its progress, and consequently diminished its usefulness. The Sunday-School Society alone expended during the first sixteen years of its existence, no less than four thousand pounds, (\$20,000) in the salaries of teachers. And this was not the least evil attending upon purchased labor. Hireling teachers can scarcely be salaries. pected to possess either the zeal or ability of those who now gage in the work from motives of pure benevolence. Grarefrobe INSTRUCTION was an astonishing improvement of the system; and which does not appear to have entered into the views of its benevolent author."

The Rev. John Wesley, in connection with his people, the Methodists, immediately after the origin of modern Sunday schools, ingrafted upon them the plan of GRATUITOUS instruction—that plan which, in the further language of Mr. James, "has been the GREAT CAUSE of the present flourishing state of these institutions, and of all that future additional increase which may be reasonably anticipated."

So early and so efficiently was this plan of gratuitous teaching adopted among the Methodists, that we find, in the *Arminian Magazine* of September, 1788, the following statement:—

"In the Methodist Sunday school, at Bolton le Moors, there are about eight hundred scholars, forty masters, and nearly as many assistants of one kind or other. All that are employed in this school (whatever their offices are) offer their services willingly, without any pecuniary fee or reward. Every man stands close to his station, and enters into the spirit of his work, with an intention to do all the good in his power to the children under his care. The masters love the children, and delight to instruct them; the children love their masters, and cheerfully receive instruction. It is about two years o since they first began the school in our large convenient chapel; and the great good attending the undertaking, appears more and more daily, not only in Bolton, but in the adjacent places from whence children come constantly to the school, and others who live in the country several miles off. What is better than all the rest, the principles of religion are instilled into their minds."

It remains only to remark on this point, that, while the Methodists have been foremost in the Sunday-school cause, both in England and America, they have uniformly practiced gratuitous instruction.

This system of gratuitous instruction was introduced into the United States of America in 1786, and actually incorporated into the Discipline of our Church in 1790.

Only five years from the date of Raikes's first experiment, and some see years before the London Sunday-School Society ceased paying its machine.

#### ORIGIN OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN AMERICA.

It has been claimed in some quarters, that the first permanent Sunday-school organization in this country, was established in Philadelphia, in 1791. This Society was under the auspices of Bishop White. It paid teachers for their services. About five years prior to this, however, (1786.) Bishop Asbury had established a Sunday school in Hanover county, Virginia, from which glorious fruits followed. And one year prior to this, the Conference held at Charleston, South Carolina, 1790, Bishop Asbury presiding, "resolved on establishing Sunday schools for poor children, white and black." At the same time provision was made for the compilation of a "Book to teach them learning and piety."\* To this period our efficient Sunday-school operations date back.

Bishop Asbury, therefore, is entitled to the credit of having introduced the Sunday-school system into America, and of having virtually founded the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### STEPS LEADING TO THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION.

From 1790, downward, the Sunday-school cause has been officially recognized and sanctioned by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Various measures have been from time to time adopted for its promotion, with varying success.

In 1827, with a view "to promote the formation and to concentrate the efforts of Sabbath schools connected with our congregations," an organization was formed under the title of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At the General Con-

Note A, Appendix of Sunday-School Union Report of 1861.

ference of 1840, this Union was reorganized by the adoption of its present Constitution.

In 1844, a Sunday-school editor was appointed by the General Conference, which officer has since been Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday-School Union.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSTITUTION.

The Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church is an institution peculiar in several of its features. It is not an isolated and independent organization, but a part and parcel of the Church itself. Like a "wheel within a wheel," its proper function is to act under the auspices of the Church, to move in the same orbit, and to promote the same great ends.

It is, in short, the representation and embodiment of the various Sunday-school interests and agencies of the whole Church. It embraces within its provisions every Sunday school of the Church, whether great or small, whether on home or on mission ground.

It requires no formal application for the recognition of auxiliaries. The disciplinary connection of any Sunday school with a quarterly meeting conference of the Church, makes the school, its teachers and its scholars members of the Union.

These things being so, while our Church wishes well to all kindred institutions, she has and can have no official connection with any other Sunday-school organization.

## OPERATIONS.

The operations of our Sunday-School Union may be classified under three general heads.—

- 1. The department of progress and improvement.
- 2. The department of publication.
- 3. The department of benevolence.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT.

The object of this institution being to PROMOTE the cause of Sabbath schools in connection with the Church, a large class of its operations is directed specially to the improvement of existing Sunday schools, as well as the founding of new ones.

In view of this object, a most extensive system of supervision has been established and incorporated with the discipline of the Church. This system, like a golden thread, is interwoven through our whole economy. It extends from our bishops downward to the smallest and remotest Sabbath school in the connection.

The bishop, preparatory to administering the first ordination vows to a minister, is required to secure from him a pledge that "he will instruct the youth." The "instruction of children," as defined by the Discipline, requires ministers to form Sunday schools "where ten children can be collected for that purpose; to engage the co-operation of as many of our members as they can; to visit the schools as often as practicable; to preach on the subject of Sunday schools and religious instruction in each congregation at least once in six months; to lay before the quarterly conference, at each quarterly meeting, to be entered on its journal, a written statement of the number and state of the Sunday schools within their respective circuits and stations, and to make a report of the same to their several annual conferences."

The presiding elder is required "carefully to inquire, at each quarterly meeting conference, whether the rules respecting the instruction of children have been faithfully observed; and to report to the annual conference the names of all traveling preachers within his district who shall neglect to observe these rules."

The Discipline further says:-"Each quarterly con-

ference shall have supervision of all the Sunday schools and Sunday-school societies within its bounds, which schools and societies shall be auxiliary to the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and each annual conference shall report to said Union the number of auxiliaries within its bounds, together with other facts presented in the annual reports of the preachers, as above directed."

Thus our system of supervision is not an idle form. It leads directly to the most thorough and extensive collection of Sunday-school statistics that the world has ever seen. Our whole statistical department contemplates progress and improvement. It aims, by comparing from year to year school with school, station with station, district with district, and conference with conference, to enable the better schools to diffuse the influence of their example among the less favored.

In this way, also, remote and feebler schools have an opportunity of learning what measures are most approved in more populous sections of the country.

Even the best of schools may derive benefit from the demonstrations of experience throughout a large circuit of observation; while the Church as a whole may learn not only what progress she is making from year to year, but also at what points the greatest encouragements are received, and in what direction the greatest efforts are called for.

Thus making common cause with all our Sunday schools, the Union seeks to promote the highest improvement of each one.

To this great end both the departments of publication and benevolence are in their turn subservient; the one by furnishing the best publications adapted to that object, the other by lending aid to the needy, and calling schools into being, where they were not. This being the case, the several departments in which we classify our operations meet and mingle at various points, and thus illustrate and aid each other. Without attempting a rigid analysis of interests which in practice usually blend together like the colors of the rainbow, we shall proceed to develop the topics mentioned, in their natural order, premising that the first will be more fully elucidated by a development of the second and third.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION.

By a wise arrangement, the Publishing Department is committed to the book agency of the Church, under the editorship of an officer of the General Conference; and being managed on business principles, is made to sustain itself.

The progress made, and the position attained in this department, are worthy of attention.

A glance at the past history of our Church will show that the publication of Sunday-school books was early commenced and zealously prosecuted by our press.

A somewhat extensive collection of volumes had been stereotyped previous to the disastrous fire of 1836, by which, in the course of a few hours, the Book Rooms of the Church, and all they contained, were made a heap of ruins.

This painful catastrophe at once destroyed the labor of years in the Sunday-school department, and reduced the Church to the necessity of providing anew for the spiritual instruction of her children, as well as for the literary wants of her membership and friends.

Those who have attentively observed the rise and progress of Sunday-school literature, will have noticed a constant if not a rapid improvement in the character, adaptation, and execution of books designed for this

department of reading and study. In view of this fact. the great conflagration alluded to, may not in the end prove so entirely a disaster as was at first supposed. Owing to the difficulties following such an event, and some other causes, the number of our library books in the summer of 1844 was only two hundred and ninety-During the eight years following, more than seven hundred volumes have been added to our catalogue. which consequently now enumerates more than ONE THOUSAND bound volumes of library books, printed expressly for Sunday schools, besides tracts, requisites, and paper-covered books in proportion. It may thus be seen that of our large supply of Sunday-school publications,\* two-thirds are new, prepared in the spirit of the latest improvements, and with thorough revision for Sunday-school purposes.

No other Sunday-school catalogue at the present time, either in Europe or America, offers a list of books so large, or, it is believed, so well classified for practical Sunday-school purposes. Besides those books specially prepared for Sunday schools, we can select from our General Catalogue, at least one hundred and twenty valuable religious works, that may with propriety be introduced into Sunday schools, and especially into teachers' libraries; thus forming an aggregate (May, 1852) of more than eleven hundred and twenty bound volumes, and a grand aggregate, inclusive of tracts, paper-covered rewards, &c., of about eighteen hundred different publications adapted to the use of Sunday schools.

Having reached this point in the history of our enterprise, it is interesting to look back and see how the providence of God has made some of the greatest improvements of modern times tributary to its success. When the first Sunday schools were established, who

See Catalogue at the end of this pamphlet.

could have imagined, for example, that printing would ever be done by steam! Yet now a single steam-engine drives a score of presses, and does more printing in an hour than could be done by the old method in weeks. No sooner are the products of the press complete, than steam-boats and steam-cars bear them in every direction against wind and tide, across mountains and valleys. scattering them by thousands among their readers. Formerly there were no religious books for children. Not long ago, indeed within the memory of a generation yet living, they were scarce. Now, whole libraries are printed for the use of the young, and millions of volumes are read by our children. Numerous pens are employed in supplying the demand for a sound juvenile literature: and distant nations exchange their intellectual products to facilitate this great object.

The art of stereotyping, and the improvements in wood-engraving, have done scarcely less than the application of steam power to render juvenile books cheap and attractive. These books are unassuming in their character, and simple in their pretensions; but who can estimate the amount and value of their influence? Within a short period it has been discovered that the newspaper press might be made to advance the designs of Sabbath schools, and hundreds of thousands of children are now reading its regular issues. Our own Sunday-School Advocate, now in its eleventh volume, is the oldest juvenile Sunday-school paper in being. It has, during the past year, reached a regular circulation of 100,000 copies, and probably been read by four or five times that number of persons.

Thus it is that the improvements of modern times have been sanctified as chosen agencies for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

#### HINTS TO THE PURCHASERS OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOOKS.

If the circulating library is deemed essential to a Sunday school, good books should be regarded essential to that library. In order to be good for this object, books should be adapted in their style of thought, their modes of expression, in graphic illustrations, and in size and appearance, to the taste and capacities of children. That these characteristics are more fully secured in books printed specially for Sunday-school purposes by responsible persons whose hearts are in the enterprise. than in books published to supply the ordinary demands of trade, is self-evident. And yet of what use will it be that the best authors are employed to write, and that unwearied pains are taken to secure all real improvements in the publication of Sunday-school books, if officers of Sunday schools, instead of appreciating these results, and availing themselves of these advantages, are disposed or persuaded to fill their libraries with other books? Other books can be found of more showy exterior, and of more amusing contents; since those who publish them feel at liberty to address the vulgar passions, if by so doing they can promote their own interests. But what propriety is there in having romantic. and amusing, or merely miscellaneous publications, in a Sunday school? Besides, who is to guaranty the moral and religious character of their contents? Evidently the purchaser cannot. It is with him but the work of half an hour to buy an amount of trash and error that will not have been purged from the minds of its readers when half a century shall have passed away.

These reflections are suggested by painful examples that will be but too apparent to any one who examines the composition of many Sunday-school libraries. The obvious remedy is, to purchase no books for those libra-

ries, for the character and religious tendency of which there is not ample guaranty furnished in the authorship, the editorship, or the imprint. It is not too much to say, that the person who, under any pretext or apology, puts indifferent, doubtful, or corrupting books into a Sabbath-school library, violates the sacred design of Sabbath schools, and outrages the confidence of those who send their children.

Occasionally purchasers are led astray by the pretense of greater cheapness; but the great pretext of those who are not content with the regular issues of the Sunday-school press, and who are continually thrusting into their Sunday-school libraries all sorts of miscellaneous books, is, that they wish something to interest the children. To seek merely to interest, without reference to the moral result, is a dangerous, and may be a fatal undertaking.

We doubt not that many things may be found more interesting to children, who yet retain the carnal mind, than the subject of religion, in any of its forms. But should we, for example, send them to the theater, or the circus, rather than to the Sunday school, because perchance they might be more interested in vicious amusements than in the service of God? What would be thought of the minister who, in order to interest his flock, should recite to them novels, or plays, instead of declaring the pure but unpalatable truths of the gospel?

To ask such questions is to answer them, and to fix the severest disapprobation upon any person that would be guilty of such a course. And yet such a course is scarcely worse than that of putting bad books into a Sunday-school library.

But it is to be hoped that the facts and tendencies which have given rise to such reflections are diminishing in number and will soon pass away.

An ample supply of such books and requisites as our

catalogue now comprises, offers every inducement to purchasers having the welfare of their Sunday schools at heart.

The third great department of our operations is that of benevolence, or

#### SUNDAY-SCHOOL MISSIONARY EFFORT.

This department embraces all those means and efforts which are designed for the support and propagation of Sunday schools among the destitute.

Having the books printed, the principal thing is to provide for their judicious distribution wherever they are needed.

To this end we have both a collecting and a distributing agency. Our Discipline provides and directs that every one of our "preachers in charge" shall take an annual collection in each of his appointments in behalf of the Sunday-School Union.

The ministers of our Churches are therefore the collecting agents of our Sunday-School Union. It has no other agents, and will need no other so long as these take a proper interest in the cause, and do the work officially and appropriately assigned them.

The treasury of the Union is a simple medium of exchange, by which the contributions of the Church for Sunday-school purposes are converted into Sunday-school books and requisites.

For the distribution of these books the board of managers of the Union provides by three responsible committees. The principal one is composed of efficers of the board at New-York; the second is located at Cincinnati; and the third at Boston. Persons residing in sections not contiguous to either of these agencies, by applying to the board may, in case of greater convenience, receive orders on any depository of books located near them.: (See form of application, &c., page 4 of cever.)

It has always been our policy in distributing books to do so with caution, giving to none but those deserving aid, and also to stimulate local effort and liberality. Our method of doing this has been to give small donations at a time, and those proportioned in amount to what was, or would be, raised on the spot.

There are very few places where a school exists or is needed, in which proper effort will not secure some funds in its own behalf.

Even small donations given in this way are like the grain of mustard-seed, which, though it is "the least of all seeds," yet "when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." They are almost invariably seed sown upon good ground, bringing forth fruit a hundredfold. Many a five-dollar library has been the origin of a large and flourishing Sunday school, and the nucleus of a useful and promising Church.

#### EXTENT OF OUR OPERATIONS.

Through the distributing agencies referred to, the greatest facilities are offered for the prompt and judicious supply of Sunday-school books to the needy in different sections of the country.

On this well-matured system of distribution our Union has, during five years prior to January, 1852, sent out more than twenty thousand dollars' worth of Sunday-school books, to seventeen different States of the Union, to Oregon, to Africa, to South America, to Germany, and to China.

What has thus been accomplished is an encouraging and appropriate beginning of the great work which still lies before us.

That the Sunday-school cause is yet only in the in-

fancy, or, at furthest, the childhood of its development, must be evident to all reflecting minds.

Most of the labors devoted to Sunday schools, as yet, have been only preparatory to what is to follow.

Glorious fruit has been already gathered, it is true; but it is only an earnest of what may be expected in future under the action of a developed system and a prepared literature.

Having now teachers and scholars enlisted, libraries organized, and all the means in readiness for successful activity, let us glance at the field open for our benevolent Sunday-school labors.

#### THE HOME FIELD.

First let us survey our own country—a country favored of Heaven with free institutions and religious liberty. We behold it, the focal point to which the business, the attention, and the population of the world are converging.

Let it be remembered that emigration is pouring in among us from the people of the Old World by hundreds of thousands per annum. Also that estimates, based upon our numerical increase in the past, indicate, that the inhabitants of the United States will, in forty-nine years, have reached the vast number of one hundred millions.

Is it possible, in view of these things, to overestimate the labors and responsibilities that belong to us in connection with the Sunday-school cause? To say nothing of the thousands who will die in the intervening time, it is clearly manifest that the religious character of every one of the hundred millions, who will live in the United States in A. D. 1900, is yet to be formed. The present is the proper time to begin to form that character, and the Sabbath school is the appropriate means.

Unless Christianity wholly renounces her commission to secure the world's conversion, she must demonstrate her fidelity and her efficiency, by not only keeping pace with the progressive ratio of population in this Christian country, but also by rapidly gaining upon it. If she cannot do this here, where she is at home, what can she do in heathen countries, where numbers are against her millions to one? Again, let any Christian contemplate the state of things in this republic fifty years hence, on the supposition that the Sabbath school shall not embrace or have trained a fair proportion of the then exist-Suppose that sin and infidelity shall ing inhabitants. have gained ground upon the Christian Church, and her · moral power shall have become weakened and broken, will not the tendency be a gradual but inevitable reversion to heathenism? Who cannot see, therefore, that infinite consequences are pending upon the faithfulness of those who love and ought to cherish the Sunday-school cause? Now, moreover, is the time for action. Every year, every month, every Sabbath-day, should be made to tell upon the momentous interests of so many immortal souls, and of the Church of God in the future. Every Christian should remember that he himself has an appropriate share of responsibility in this matter, from which he can never be absolved. Every scholar that is brought into the school should be impressed with the grand idea of the world's conversion, and of an enlistment for life in efforts to accomplish it. On this plan we already possess all the elements of glorious success.

Our home work in this enterprise is closely identified with the great cause of Christian missions. Hence we may survey it with a little more minuteness.

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#### GERMAN POPULATION.

For several years past our German missions, in different parts of the United States, have been steadily increasing. In them, the Sabbath school has always and everywhere been recognized as a most important means of progress and success. In this view, we have always supplied books promptly and liberally, whenever asked to do so, in aid of German schools. Besides, our Book Agents and German editor at Cincinnati, have made spirited and successful efforts to furnish a supply of German books and Sunday-school requisites. This latter undertaking has not been with the wish or intention of preserving, perpetually, the German language in our Sunday schools, but, as a proper means of commencement; particularly with families but recently arrived from Europe. It is found, as it certainly is desired, that German children in this country soon acquire the English language, and it is hoped, that, in a few years, all who are now in our schools will be able to avail themselves fully of the rich supplies of Sundayschool literature furnished them in our language.

Yet, from the increasing immigration, we shall always need German books, to some extent, in our American German schools.

We have recently entered a new and most promising field on the continent of Europe. Our missionaries in Germany have already established several Sunday schools, and gathered in more than a thousand scholars. In Germany, from the necessity of the case, German books must be made use of altogether; and, as books are essential to success in all Sunday schools, we must see to it that an adequate supply is not wanting.

SWEDISH, NORWEGIAN, DANISH, AND FRENCH.

Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, have already sent a vast population to our shores. As the languages of these countries are cognate and very similar to each other, we, for our own present purposes, speak of them under one classification.

We have now commenced active missionary operations for the people of these countries that are among us, and books are wanted for the establishment of Sunday schools, and the instruction of their children in evangelical truth.

Already have we felt constrained, in answer to an urgent application, to appropriate funds to translate and print our catechism in the Swedish and Danish languages. This will be a commencement of what we hope the Church may enable us to carry out to a very desirable extent.

The same remarks will also apply to the French language and the French population in our midst, among whom also we have commenced missions.

#### SPANISH.

We now have missions established in New-Mexico and California, and in both places a demand has been made for some elementary Sunday-school books in the Spanish language.

As already intimated, we have no wish to multiply publications in foreign languages any further than God, in his providence, seems to require of us; less than that it would be criminal to do. But whether in the original languages of the nations now alluded to, or in our native tongue, it is evident, from the bare mention of the countries to which we have referred, that a vast

work ought to be done by the Christians of this generation.

Great and untransferable obligations does this work devolve upon the Christians of America, and the friends of Sunday schools. Here, on our own soil, consecrated to civil and religious freedom, the nations of the world are congregating. Here, in our own wide domain, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is a fresh and hopeful field for planting the seeds of truth, and nurturing every good and saving influence.

#### THE WIDE WORLD.

While we cultivate diligently this home field, let us remember also the wants of the world. Ethiopia is now stretching out her hands unto God, Mohammedan countries are receiving the Bible, India and China are open to missionary labors, and the islands and continents of the earth are waiting to receive the law of Christ.

Everywhere on mission ground the Sunday school must be the entering wedge. Little can be accomplished without first instructing the children, and training them up to love and practice the truth.

It is the legitimate work of our Sunday-School Union to supply the books for needy Sunday schools in every part of our home work and in all our missions.

## CLAIMS.

To all who can appreciate the glorious objects for which we thus labor, the claims of our Sunday-School Union will be obvious and imperative. It makes a direct and personal appeal to

#### MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL

As partakers of a holy and heavenly calling, you are presumed to be interested in every instrumentality for the promotion of piety and the salvation of souls. Preeminently is the cause of Sunday schools such an instrumentality. It comes in as a mild but powerful auxiliary to your most important labors. It prepares young hearts for the reception of the gospel; it promotes the study of God's holy word; and it tends to fashion the life and character of all connected with it after the example of the Divine Redeemer.

You are presumed to feel a lively solicitude for the prosperity of the Sunday schools connected with your own fields of labor.

You are presumed to love the Church of God, and hence to feel your own responsibility in one of the greatest enterprises connected with her extension and perpetuity. This Sunday-School Union is the grand embodiment of all the Sunday-school interests of the Church to which you who are now specially addressed belong. braces the schools of your charge, and you as their pas-It thus forms a bond of connection between tors. you and all the other Sunday schools of the Church. Moreover, it claims you as its AGENTS. It needs your services, to collect its funds and disburse its bounties. It has no other agents for these objects, and desires no other; but it pleads with you to become familiarly acquainted with its position and character, its modes of operation, and its claims for support, that you may set them in order before the people, and allow none to be deprived of the privilege of co-operating with such powerful and promising agency of good.

The advantages which ministers possess for advantage every department of the Sunday-school enterprise obvious.

1. They know their people and the ground they occupy, and consequently are free from the embarrassments and liabilities to mistake, almost unavoidable to transient agents.

2. They cover the whole ground. From one extremity of our territory to the other they visit every township and nearly every neighborhood, and thus have an oppor-

tunity to know and provide for the wants of all.

3. They can not only act as collecting agents, but as Sunday-school missionaries of the most competent character. It is a part of their legitimate calling to establish Sunday schools and instruct the young in ways of righteousness. Having established schools, they are on the spot to care for and maintain them, which is not the case with a transient missionary or agent.

4. Wherever they see that there is need of assistance for the support or organization of a school, it is their duty to report the facts to the officers of the Union, and secure an appropriation. In this way they are the most

reliable and competent disbursing agents.

5. All these important ends are secured by our plan of operations without withdrawing any minister from his regular work, or diverting the time and labor of any in-

dividual from his appropriate calling.

These arrangements most happily illustrate the value of our itinerant system, and exhibit the peculiar advantages which it possesses for advancing every good cause. It may be safely said that no other system would enable us to accomplish the great work we are doing in the Sunday-school cause, at so small expense of time and money. Indeed we believe no other system can be more admirably adapted to promote this enterprise in all its bearings upon the individual and collective interests of mankind.

Correlative to the duties of ministers are those of

#### CHURCHES, PRIVATE CHRISTIANS, AND PHILANTHROPISTS

Every Church of the Lord Jesus Christ should do what it can to promote thorough and efficient Sunday-school instruction in its own midst, and also among the needy elsewhere. Every principle of Christian charity, and every obligation to do good while we have an opportunity, calls upon the Churches of our land to arouse themselves to united and simultaneous action in behalf of the cause of Sunday schools.

When only annual collections are taken for the Union, members of the Church, whatever their pastors may do or say, should see to it that those collections bear some proper relation to the magnitude of the object, and are not treated as a trivial formality.

Persons having an opportunity, should give on these occasions, in view of the full weight of their obligations and of the possibility that such opportunities may not to them recur again.

The idea is gaining prevalence, and is correct, that the Sunday-School Union collections of our Churches ought hereafter to be the very next in prominence and amount to our Missionary collections.

Above all, it should be seen to, by every person interested, that no Church for any reason omits to take its annual Sunday-School Union collection. It is by union of action and effort that we can alone expect to accomplish great results.

We cannot take the space to record special appeals to each class of individuals, who ought personally to devote themselves to the zealous promotion of the Sundays school cause, and to co-operate with this Union in the glorious work which God has given it to do. We must therefore speak briefly and collectively to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ,—whether old, middle-aged, the

young, whether parents or children, whether Sunday-school teachers or those who ought to be.

For us all, God has a work to do, in connection with Sunday schools. This great agency of usefulness is wisely adapted to universal co-operation. For all who have the will, the way is here open to position and farreaching usefulness. But this usefulness is not to be attained without exertion and self-denial. These virtues may be practiced with reference to both the home and the mission work of Sunday schools. The latter usually prospers in proportion to the interest manifested in the former. The warmest support the Sunday-School Union receives, is from those Christian communities in which the Sunday-school spirit is most thoroughly aroused and developed.

The just inference is that, if the whole Church could be properly aroused to active home labor, means would not be wanting for the thorough prosecution of the en-

terprise in any part of the world.

We therefore present a few general considerations.

1. THE OFFICE OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER MUST BE MORE HIGHLY APPRECIATED.

The public mind is not habituated to a more glaring and absurd mistake, than that of placing a low estimate upon the dignity and importance of the services rendered by Sunday-school teachers. That an unworthy estimate of the character of these services quite too generally prevails, is proved by the fact, that a deficiency of regular and competent teachers is the GREAT DIFFICULTY with which our cause has to contend. But for this, thousands more of scholars would be in our schools at this moment, and tens of thousands who are in them would be retained longer and taught better.

This deficiency does not arise from the lack of persons who might render good service in this cause, but of those who will. We have in our own com-

munion about ten Church-members to one Sundayschool teacher, and yet many of our teachers are not members of the Church. Unconverted persons, from pure philanthropy, step in to do an essential work, which professing Christians neglect! What does this indicate, but that a vast majority of such Christians wholly underrate this high calling of God? If there is any work of transcendent importance, it is certainly that of molding the character and cultivating the hearts of the rising generation. If there is any work of sublime and unsurpassed dignity, it is that of imitating Christ in the act of instructing and blessing children. there is any earthly engagement that directly tends to peopling heaven with immortal souls, it is this! there is any labor that is likely to receive the glorious rewards of eternity, it is this! Yet nine-tenths of the . Christain Church, in a Christain country, stand aloof from it!

Large numbers of those who profess to be redeemed by the blood of Christ, treat the command of Christ, to feed his lambs, with practical contempt! They regard efforts to bring young children to Christ, that he may save them, as a drudgery to which they cannot condescend! May God have mercy upon his Church, unless this state of things is speedily and thoroughlyremedied!

Sunday-school teaching requires the best talents, the highest attainments, and the most devoted piety of the Church. Let this incontrovertible truth become generally understood and believed, and our Sunday schools will no longer languish for lack of teachers, or be consigned to the sole care of the young and inexperienced.

2. SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS MUST BE EDUCATED AND TRAINED FOR THE WORK.

Several years of instruction and practice are thought necessary to learn the art of making a shoe, a hat, and coat. How absurd then to suppose, that the art of instructing the young, in things pertaining to the kingdom of God, can be taken up at a moment's notice, or even tolerably performed, without some special instruction in the duties of the office, and the best method of performing them! We would not discourage the humblest effort to be useful in this sphere of Christian exertion. We consider the poorest service far better than no service. We are disposed to honor far more highly the person of weak abilities, who has a disposition to labor in this cause, than a person of the greatest abilities not possessing or maintaining this disposition.

Nevertheless, we feel it a duty to urge all teachers to seek to improve their qualifications for this office, and equally so to urge upon the Church to provide every necessary means for enabling teachers to secure the best of qualifications. Among the first of these means is a suitable teachers' library. Another is a teachers' Bibleclass. A third is an annual course of lectures upon topics of special interest to teachers. None of these means, however, can, in any degree, compensate the lack of a disposition, on the teacher's part, to seek improvement for himself; and that disposition, if thoroughly inwrought into his character, will be almost sure of suc-The best results may therefore be expected where teachers, with a sincere desire for improvement, have access to the books and tracts we publish for their aid and instruction.

8. SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS MUST PERSEVERE IN THEIR WORK.

Descrition, under military law, is a capital offense. It ought to be considered such, under the laws which govern those who enlist under banners of the cross of Christ. Yet how common is it for Sunday-school teachers to descrit their post! Oftentimes they abandon their responsibilities as readily as though they never

had a conception of their weight and importance, scarcely deeming an excuse necessary. At other times the most frivolous pretexts are resorted to as an excuse: for instance, a change of the officers of the school, marriage, weariness, inconvenience, mature age, and, finally, promotion to official stations in the Church. This last is not so often the avowed as the real reason. An individual receives some official appointment,—is made, for example, an exhorter, a class-leader, a trustee, or a local preacher,—and forthwith his duties are so laborious, or his dignities so great, that he can no longer remain a Sunday-school teacher!

Against such a result we enter our solemn protest. We go further, and declare, that few men, if any, are worthy of the official stations we have named, that will not cherish in them a sincere and practical regard for the cause of Sunday schools, and that will not aid that cause by all the weight of their official, as well as personal, influence. What we need in our Sunday schools are teachers who volunteer for life. Such teachers are constantly improving, and giving to the Church the benefit of their experience; and such teachers God will delight to honor in a coming day. They will be found among those who have turned "many to righteousness, and shall shine like stars forever and ever."

4. More time must be allotted to sunday-school exercises.

It is painful now to see how little time is really devoted to religious instruction. It is, in most cases, but a brief hour, with a tardy commencement and a hurrist breaking up. If even this is repeated twice, it may be better than a single session prolonged to weariness. But what we ask for is, that two sessions be secured for the school each Sabbath-day. Half an hour may be all lotted to introductory and concluding exercises on each occasion, leaving two full hours every Sabbath-day.

instruction and entertainment in spiritual things. This indeed is little enough; but this will give time for an ample course of Scriptural study, for monthly prayermeetings, for singing, and for every other good word and work, as connected with such a means of grace. We are unwilling, however, that these two sessions should be so crowded in between other religious services which teachers and scholars are expected to attend, as that hurry and fatigue shall unfit the one class for their duties and the other for their privileges. In this way the very "beauty of holiness" is marred, and the great ends contemplated are subjected to a sure defeat. Whatever good comes from Sabbath schools under the unfavorable circumstances in which many are placed, must be considered the pure triumph of the cause over its besetting obstacles.

5. More money must be given for sunday-school purposes.

It is impossible to use money for a better object, or for surer good results, than in the maintenance of Sunday schools. Hence these schools should be supported with unsparing liberality. Their every want should be anticipated. The best of rooms should be provided. Fixtures, maps, and books, should be furnished, whenever desired, and to the fullest needful extent. niggardly parsimony which willingly does less than this. It is a disgrace to the membership of any Church, and a curse to the best interests of any branch of Zion, to suffer its Sunday school to languish for lack of a cordial and a generous support. When teachers give their labors gratuitously, is it too much for parents and friends to give the necessary funds? What sort of principle is it that will allow teachers, not only to have all the care and burden of teaching and training the children of a congregation, but also to incur the expense of providing books for them to read and study, and rewards for their encouragement? It certainly is not Christian principle; for Christianity never requires persons to make bricks without strzw. What sort of liberality is it, which, instead of inquiring solicitously for the wants of the Sunday school, and cheerfully relieving them, forces the school to resort to an exhibition as a means of raising funds, or only yields a collection when forced to it by importunity, and then doles out a stingy pittance for its benefit?

It is not the liberality which God approves; for "God loveth the cheerful giver." If such a lack of principle and generosity have ever hitherto been manifested in the history of the Church, let it never recur again. There is no possible excuse for it. The stereotyped complaint of "so many collections" has not the shadow of force or meaning in this connection.

It is for their own children, and the children of their neighbors, that the members of a congregation are called upon to provide the bread of life; and to withhold it is unnatural and wicked. Of all claims upon them, these are first, and should be most gladly met.

Closely akin to these claims are those of the Sunday-School Union itself, which is the grand agency of the combined Church for feeding the lambs of Christ. It is this which seeks out the lost and the perishing for lack of knowledge, and furnishes them the sincere milk of the word. Let this Union be supported as it ought to be, and not a child of the Church, or within the range of her influence, need lack any means of a thorough Scriptural education. Here is a call for our largest and most enlightened liberality. Subject to the greatest urgency of demand, both at home and abroad, and standing as we do at a most interesting and decisive period of the world's history, how can we rob God by withholding what his providence so clearly and so loudly calls upon us to give?

### RETROSPECT OF THE PAST.

If we need encouragement from the past, we have it in a retrospect of our progress and success during the last few years.

In 1844 our Sunday-school statistics were only collected with reference to three principal items, and it is probable that universal returns were not made; nevertheless, covering the whole United States, and embracing the conferences of what is now the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, it is safe to suppose the grand aggregate indicated more schools, teachers, and scholars than we actually had in our present territory at that time.

The aggregate of 1844 stood as follows:-

•	Schools. 4,546	Officers & Teachers. 44,745	Scholars. 260,585
Aggregate of 1845, embrac-			
ing ten southern conferences,			
but minus three northern con-			
ferences,	5,005	47,252	268,777
Our present aggregate in			•
these items, including no south-			
ern conferences, for the year			
1851 is	8,706	93,561	473,311
Deduct total of 1844	4,546	44,745	<b>260,585</b> .
Increase of eight years, say- ing nothing of the division of			
the Church	4,160	48,816	212,726

It is thus seen that in eight years our number of Sunday schools and scholars has about doubled, and our number of teachers has more than doubled.

To these figures we append a table showing our annual increase between the years 1847 and 1852.

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### INCREASE IN FIVE YEARS.

		Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Vols. in Lib.	Total Exp. of Schools.	Total Conversions.
Increase in	1847,	457	4,056	19,600	114,812	<b>\$34,900</b>	4,118
"	1848,	190	5,118	16,802	108,527	46,843	8,240
44	1849,	576	3,610	85,201	136,407	48,079	9,014
44	1850,	687	10,966	87,856	140,497	54,587	11,398
**	1851,	685	8,721	43,722	143,475	66,124	14,557
Total incre	ase,	2,595	32,471	152,681	652,218	\$250,533	47,827

Was there ever so glorious a harvest gathered from so scanty a seed-planting and from so little labor?

### HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

If we need hope for the future, let us "behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." "There is joy among the angels of heaven over one sinner that repenteth."

Scores, probably hundreds, of these converted Sunday-school children may doubtless become heralds of the cross, and, turning many to righteousness, shine as the stars forever and ever.

Thousands will, without doubt, become devoted Sunday-school teachers, and live to advance gloriously the cause which has sought out and blessed them.

Let us then seek to imbue both old and young with the missionary spirit of the Sunday-school enterprise. Especially, while adult congregations are called on to aid the Sunday-School Union, should Sunday-school children also be trained up in the way in which they should go, by consecrating their early and precious gifts to provide Sunday-school books for the heathen and the poor.

Here is an occasion for the practice of self-denial and cross-bearing, that childhood can appreciate and infancy itself comprehend. Let this be encouraged, and we may expect our children not to live in vain, but to grow

in usefulness as they grow in years, until at length their hoary heads shall be crowns of glory, being found in the way of righteousness. Finally,

THE CHURCH MUST OFFER MORE PRAYER FOR THIS CAUSE.

No amount of money can purchase, no combination of facilities can secure, the highest ends of Sunday-school instruction. It is "not by might, nor by power," but by the Spirit of the Lord, that the means of instruction can be sanctified to the awakening and conversion of souls, and the everlasting profit of those who are taught. To this end God will be inquired of: for this object he will hear and answer the prayers of his Church. The Church should, therefore, be "instant in season and out of season," imploring the divine blessing upon the surest means of her extension and perpetuation. Immediate and constant results should be expected in the use of the proper means.

The Sunday school is the favored spot for a revival to commence, and the Sunday school furnishes the subjects for its perpetual continuance.

Let Sunday schools then be the subjects of special entreaty before the throne of grace, and while we labor zealously and faithfully to promote them, let us cast the burden of our hope on the Lord, and he shall sustain us.

# APPENDIX.

In addition to the statistics embodied in the foregoing Exposition, several tables are hereto appended, which will be found full of interest and instruction to persons who desire to observe carefully the progress of the Sunday-school cause.

### EXPLANATION OF THE OPPOSITE PAGE.

On the opposite page we present a table showing the annual receipts of this Sunday-School Union from each annual conference since the year 1846.

The first column shows the total receipts of this institution from each of the annual conferences prior to 1848.

The second, third, fourth, and fifth columns show the annual receipts from each conference, for four successive years.

Sixth column, the total receipts from each conference prior to 1852.

Seventh column, grants made to each conference in 1851.

Eighth column, total grants to each conference prior to 1852.

Ninth column, amounts raised by each conference in 1851 for the Missionary Society.

Tenth column, amounts raised by each conference in 1851 for the American Bible Society.

### MEMORANDA.

Aggregate, raised in 1851, for Missions	189,002	87
Aggregate, raised in 1851, for Bible Society	25,114	70.
Aggregate, raised in 1851, for Sunday-School Union	6,568	80
Treasury of S. S. Union in debt, Jan. 1, 1852	1,612	55

# TABLE SHOWING THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF EACH CONFERENCE SINCE 1846.

Foreign Missions, &	Western Virginia	Vermont	Troy	Rock River	Providence	Pittsburg	Philadelphia	Oneida	Ohio · · · · ·	North Ohio	North Indiana .	New-York East .	New-York	New-Jersey	New-Hampshire.	New-England.	Missouri	Michigan	Maine	Iowa	Indiana	Illinois	Genesee	Erie	East Maine	East Genesee	Black River	Baltimore	CONTERENCES.	, many
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# SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS

Of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist B. Church.

# 1851.

CONFERENCES.	No. Sunday Schools,	No. of Officers and Teachers.	No. of B. Scholars.	No. of Volumes in	Expenses of Schools this year.	Sunday-School Advocates taken.	No. of Conversions.
Baltimore	572	7,764	36,726	87,618	\$8,070	4,553	1,028
Black River	242	2,295	10,451	25,800	960	1,974	322
East Genesee .	303	3,126	14,216	37,485	1,739	3,003	418
East Maine	129	1,352	5,983	20,987	739	1,664	170
Erie	354	3,932	16,441	56,133	2,125	2,228	508
Genesee	206	2,032	9,246	26,119	1,414	2,948	220
Illinois (1850) .	468	3,615	17,208	39,248	1,790	988	414
Indiana	462	4,161	23,162	54,416	2,719	2,496	608
Iowa	170	1,500	7,563	16,278		702	417
Maine	116	1,315	6,691	20,163	978	2,078	266
Michigan	278	2,613	12,777	32,722	1,027	1,809	172
Missouri (1850).	37	182	832	2,182	144	70	20
New-England .	126	2,110	13,116	32,904	1,977	3,751	563
N. Hampshire .	108	1,232	7,569	20,306	1,076	2,330	474
New-Jersey	416	5,084	27,315	69,506	4,520	6,966	764
New-York	307	3,210	16,910	46,835	2,562	5,499	427
New-York East	195	2,934	16,645	50,599	3,439	6,010	838
North Indiana .	421	4,003	20,945	47,653	2,105	1,232	611
North Ohio	418	4,695	23,831	65,617	2,887	3,875	458
Ohio	831	9,427	46,756	122,856	5,854	7,291	1,521
Oneida	477	4,363	19,992	60,548	2,685	3,750	717
Philadelphia .	394	5,506	33,847	86,376	5,978	4,169	830
Pittsburg	385	4,725	23,263	64,282	2,976	3,109	823
Providence	130	1,936	11,629	38,969	2,585	3,769	286
Rock River	281	2,559	12,199	34,451	1,445	2,782	449
Troy	352	3,479	16,004	48,913	1,848	6,685	431
Vermont	101	915	5,739	14,748	700	1,414	246
W. Virginia.	161	1,534	5,480	11,969	312	233	220
Wisconsin .	905	1,638	6,409	20,444	1,034	974	270
For. Missions, &cc	. 53	324	2,276	4,411	436	91	75
Total	8,706	93,561	478,311	1,260,558	66,124	88,443	14.557
	8,021	84,840	429,589	1,117,083	54,587		11,398
Incresse	685	8,721	48,792	143,475	11,537	14,080	2,190

# FORMS FOR SUNDAY-SCHOOL STATISTICS.

For the sake of securing uniformity, not only in the reports of our preachers to the annual conferences, but also to the quarterly conferences, the subjoined forms are annexed, so that preachers and officers of Sunday schools may always have them at hand for their guidance.

# I. REPORT TO A QUARTERLY-MEETING CONFERENCE.

Number of conversions.....

Number of conversions.....

Number of Sunday-School Advocates taken

Total expenses of the schools this year.... Number of Bible classes..... Number of volumes in library..... Number of scholars..... Number of officers and teachers,..... Number of Sunday schools.....

Number of scholars in infant classes..... Amount raised for S. S. Union.....

9 Number of Sunday-School Advocates taken	7. Total expenses of the schools this year	6. Number of scholars in infant classes	5. Number of Bible classes	4. Number of volumes in library	3. Number of scholars	2. Number of officers and teachers	1. Number of Sunday schools	for the quarter ending 185	to the Quarterly-Meeting Conference,	Preacher in Charge on	Report of Sunday-School Statistics from the
		7. Total expenses of the schools this year	<ol> <li>Number of scholars in infant classes</li> <li>Total expenses of the schools this year</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Number of Bible classes</li> <li>Number of scholars in infant classes</li> <li>Total expenses of the schools this year</li> </ol>	4. Number of volumes in library 5. Number of Bible classes 6. Number of scholars in infant classes 7. Total expenses of the schools this year	3. Number of scholars 4. Number of volumes in library 5. Number of Bible classes 6. Number of scholars in infant classes 7. Total expenses of the schools this year	2. Number of officers and teachers 3. Number of scholars 4. Number of volumes in library 5. Number of Bible classes 6. Number of scholars in infant classes 7. Total expenses of the schools this year	1. Number of Sunday schools	for the quarter ending 185  1. Number of Sunday schools	nber o	ite qua  te qua  nber o  nber o

year ending

### II. REPORT OF A PREACHER IN CHARGE TO HIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Preacher in Charge on Sunday-School Statistics from the

# EXPLANATION OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL STATISTICS.

It is believed that a correct understanding generally prevails, of what is called for under the several items of our Sunday-school statistics; nevertheless, as sundry questions have arisen, and as entire uniformity of understanding and practice is very important, the following explanations are given, for the sake of definiteness, in the form of question and answer.

1. What should be reported as the first item?

Ans. The number of Sunday schools connected with our Church in the circuit or station; and only those under the supervision of the Quarterly-Meeting Conference.

2. Who are to be reported as officers and teachers?

Ans. All the regularly enrolled officers and teachers of every grade in the school or schools reported.

3. Who are to be included in the number of scholars?

Ans. All the scholars attached to the Sunday school, whether in infant classes, youths' classes, or adult classes.

4. What should be reported under No. 4?

Ans. The total number of volumes in a fair condition for use, held as the property of the school or schools, whether used as text-books or circulating-library books.

Rem. The first four items represent positive aggregates. The following items are explanatory of what precedes, and of the general enterprise and result of the schools.

5. What is meant by item fifth?

ANS. Precisely what it says; the number of Bible CLASSES in the charge, not the number of scholars studying the Bible.

REM. In the progress of the Sunday-school cause, the term Bible Class has acquired a technical signification. It means something different from an ordinary Sunday-school class, that may be studying either the Old or the New Testament. In every thoroughly organized Sunday school there will be found at least one young men's Bible class, and one young ladies' Bible class, taught by

separate teachers, and, if practicable, in separate rooms. Into these classes the senior scholars of the school proper, or youths' classes, are promoted as they grow up.

In addition to this style of Bible classes, there are, in some schools, classes of adult persons who regularly study the Scriptures, and recite to a teacher; and also a class of teachers who, under the instruction of the minister, superintendent, or some other competent person, weekly examine and recite the lessons which on Sabbath they teach to the scholars.

The great importance of these different styles of Bible classes, and the necessity of their multiplication and thorough instruction, must be obvious to all who are anxious to see the highest and noblest ends of Sunday schools secured.

Item fifth, therefore, keeps this subject constantly before the Church, and calls for the number of Bible CLASSES existing in each pastoral charge.

6. What is meant by item sixth?

Ans. The number of scholars in the infant classes.

REM. Infant classes in Sunday schools usually include scholars too young to read or to learn their lessons from books. Hence they are taught orally, and usually in greater numbers than youths' classes. The infant class in a Sunday school, therefore, forms a department by itself, and item sixth calls for the number of scholars belonging to it. In many places infant schools proper have not yet been established, and this item is designed to prompt our friends everywhere to see to their establishment.

It may be remarked further, that more doubts have been expressed as to the intent of the fifth and sixth items, than with reference to any others: hence a more detailed explanation of them has been given.

7. What should be included in the expenses of the schools?

ANS. All legitimate expenses incurred in the establishment, enlargement, and support of Sunday schools, whether in renting or constructing buildings, or in furnishing books and papers.

REM. Not what is given to or received from the Sunday-School Union. 8. Amount raised for the Sunday-School Union?

Ans. The total amount of what is raised and paid over both by the school and congregation.

REM. This amount should correspond with the treasurer's receipts from the circuit or station.

9. Sunday School Advocate?

Ans. The whole number taken by the schools or by persons connected with them.

10. Conversions?

Ans. The number of persons connected with the schools, whether scholars or teachers, who have, during the year, made a creditable profession of conversion to God.

Rem. In reporting this item, preachers in charge should exercise their discretion, and report according to the facts before them. At best we can only expect to ascertain approximately in this world the number of persons converted through the instrumentality of Sunday schools. Many are converted in riper years through the impressions received in Sunday schools when young. Others, while Sunday-school scholars, may be converted through the direct agency of preaching in the congregation; but how much the preparatory influences of the Sunday school may have done to secure the result no one can know. In view of all things, therefore, a medium course is proposed, which, without attempting to solve mysteries, shall represent manifest results in the experience of persons connected with Sunday schools.

Many more questions might be asked respecting the several items of our Sunday-school statistics. It is believed, however, that all persons who will carefully read the foregoing explanations, will agree in a clear understanding of precisely what is called for by each several item.

N. B. It is specially desired that all our ministers will prepare themselves, before going to conference, to make accurate and full reports of their Sunday-school statistics. Neglect of this duty discredits the individual and his conference, and in fact the whole Church, as it deprives both the latter of a credit which is due to them in all justice and truth.

# DIPLOMAS.

Good people usually deem it desirable to be associated with great and good enterprises. Throughout all the ranks of the Sundayschool work, there is a high degree of common interest and fellowfeeling, and in ne benevolent enterprise are suitable emblems of confraternity more desirable.

To provide for an obvious want, therefore, as well as for an arrangement contemplated in the Constitution of our Sunday-School Union, three elegant Diplomas have been prepared, which, for the information of all concerned, will be described in order.

# Certificate of Life-Directorship.

A Director for Life is constituted by the payment of fifty dollars at one time.

The Certificate of Life-Directorship has been pronounced by good judges, to be superior in design and execution to anything of the kind heretofore published in this country.

It is printed in colors upon a large and well-proportioned sheet. In the center of the picture is an emblematic group, representing Religion instructing the young. A beautiful female figure sits surrounded by an interesting group of boys and girls, whom she is instructing from the open Bible, as a text-book, while she points to a map of the world as the field in which they are to live and act for God.

In the background, at the left, is a country scene, representing the rise and progress of Sunday schools. A rude building, standing in the edge of the forest, is the starting-point, and before that building ceases to be used for Sunday-school purposes, a beautiful and stately church edifice is seen rising from its foundations, as at once the future home and the direct fruit of the Sunday school,

On the right-hand background is a city scene, representing a Sunday-school procession passing the Book Rooms, with banners flying.

The picture of the Book Concern is well drawn, and will be, to thousands who read its publications, not only valuable as emblematic of the power of the press, but as a historical representation of the spot from which millions of pages of religious reading are annually sent out to enlighten and bless the world.

The lettering of the Certificate is done in the highest style of art. One of the finest instances of this is seen in the overhanging inscription, "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord," which, as a premise of God, descending from heaven, floats in letters of light upon the clouds.

The whole Certificate, surrounded with an ornamental border, is printed in a tint of pearl-gray, and also (the third impression) in a tint of soft orange color. These blended tints mellow both the lights and shades, and give to the whole a most desirable effect. The arrangement of the lettering is in the most approved style, so that the name of the life-director, and the signatures of the officers of the Society, may appear in harmony with the general plan of the picture.

This Certificate, as a whole, is universally admired, and pronounced everyway worthy of its object, which is nothing less than to furnish to the friends of the Union a work of art, such as they shall prize for its own sake, as well as for its being a representation of an institution with which they shall esteem it an honor to be connected.

# Certificate of Life-Membership.

The payment of ten dollars or more, at one time, constitutes a member for life. This amount has been fixed lower than in most societies of equal magnitude, in hope that the great body of Sunday-school teachers may in due time be represented in the list.

Almost every Sunday school might, by periodical collections for the Union, secure the life-membership, in a few years, of its whole corps of teachers.

It should be remembered, that the funds of THIS UMION go directly and exclusively to the distribution of Sunday-school books

4

among the needy. Hence, those who create life-memberships may have a double satisfaction, that of aiding a good cause and of bestowing upon their friends valuable tokens of regard. For example: What more creditable thing could a person who is able do, than to create his wife, his children, or other persons he might select, life-members of the Sunday-School Union? What more appropriate token of respect can a congregation show its minister, or Sunday-school superintendent, or Sunday-school teacher, than to constitute them life-members of an institution with which they are disposed to co-operate in the furtherance of the kingdom of Christ upon earth?

The Certificate of Life-Membership is similar in all respects to that described above, save only that it is printed in one less color, with appropriate variations in the lettering.

# Invenile Membership.

For adult persons, either the Life-Directorship or the Life-Membership Certificate is appropriate, and we hope that before many years each one of our teachers and officers of Sabbath schools will be possessed of one of them, as a choice ornament to their homes, and keepsake of their lives.

But what should be done in this respect for scholars? They should be furnished with the Juvenile Certificate, printed also in colors. Underneath a handsome engraving, it contains the following words, in ornamental letters:—

"This certifies that A.... B.... is enrolled as a Juvenile Member of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church; payment of three dollars having been made to the Treasury, for the gratuitous distribution of Sunday-school books."

These Certificates will bear the signature of one of our bishops as president, and also of one of the secretaries of the Union.

The Annual Report will contain the names of all those children and youth who are thus enrolled as members of the Juvenile Department. We will here say distinctly, that this Certificate in no way interferes with that of life-membership. We hope and expect that juvenile members will, in due time, grow up into life-members and life-directors.

It is believed that parents generally will take an interest in procuring these beautiful Certificates for all their children—at least for all who are faithful in attending Sunday-school, and who thus show themselves worthy of membership in this glorious Union.

It is certainly expected that the children, without exception, will be ambitious to procure this testimonial; and we doubt not that all who do, will point to it in future life as one of their real honors. Many poor children, who are rich in good works, will doubtless have this testimonial procured for them by their friends and school-mates.

### MODE OF DISTRIBUTION.

The Diplomas above described, may be procured on application at the Methodist Book-Rooms of New-York and Cincinnati, and also at all our principal Book Depositories.

Supplies will also be sent from time to time to the several annual conferences, under whose directions they will be preserved and distributed to persons entitled to receive them.

For the information of our friends, it may be stated, that those who wish, can have their Certificates neatly framed in New-York, by transmitting to the Book Agents, 200 Mulberry-street, the following prices, viz.:—

A gilt fran	ne, two inches	wide, with	glass\$2	50
Rosewood.				00

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THE END.

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AND

# TRACTS

OF THE

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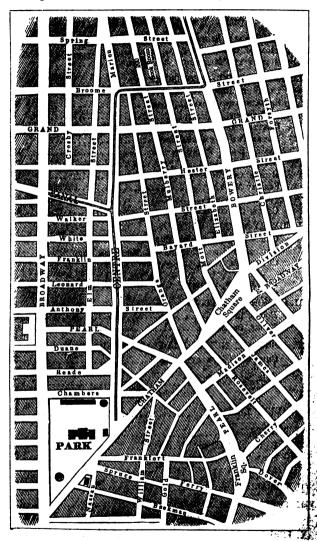
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Map of the Central Section of the City of New-York.



### EXPLANATION OF THE MAP.

For the convenience of our numerous friends from a distance, we publish, as a directory to our Book-Rooms, the accompanying plan of a section of the city.

One of the most public places in New-York is the Park, with its celebrated fountain of Croton Water. At this point a person is very near our BRANCH of the Book-Concern, 138 Nassau-street, represented on the plan by a check opposite the Presbyterian Brick Church.

From the Park there are three principal ways of going to 200 Mulberrystreet, viz., through Broadway, Chatham-street and the Bowery, or Centre-street.

Persons choosing to ride can take stages either in Broadway or the Bowery, to the corner of Broome-street, or rail-cars through Centre-street. From the corner of Broome and Mulberry Streets, the Book-Concern is visible on the right.

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OF

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\*\* A letter-box is provided in the door, for persons calling out of business hours.

• • . . . . . .

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A DISCOURT of 15 per cent. for cash, or 10 per cent. on time, is allowed to preachers or schools ordering or purchasing Sunday-school books, at New-York and Cincinnati, in amounts of Five Dollars and upward.

Books of the General Catalogue are designated by an asterisk prefixed to the title, e. g., "Wesley's Notes; and when purchased at wholesale, are furnished at General Catalogue discounts.

<sup>9</sup><sub>6</sub>° Our friends are requested, when they order books of the Children's Library or Youth's Library, simply to give the number of each book, instead of the title. In ordering the Children's Library, they should give the letter of the series with the number, e.g., A 1, B 5, &c.

# T.

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# CONSTITUTION

Of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE I .- The Name .- The title of this Association shall be, "The Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

ART. II. - Object .- The object of this Society shall be, to promote the cause of Sabbath-schools, in connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and thus, by a careful religious training of those who may be brought within its influence, seek to promote the glory

of God and the happiness of mankind.

ART. III.—Members, etc.—The payment of one dollar, annually, shall constitute a member of this Society; the payment of ten dollars or more, at one time, shall constitute a member for life; and the payment of fifty dollars, at one time, a director for life. Each Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be entitled to elect a Vice-President.

ART. IV .- Funds, how to be expended: applications for aid .- The funds of the Society shall be expended, at the discretion of the Board of Managers, in defraying the current expenses of the Union, and in forwarding the objects contemplated by the second article

of the Constitution.

In all cases of application for aid, if relief be deemed necessary, it shall be granted in books, unless the circumstances seem to demand the appropriation of money. In case of more calls on the Board for aid than they can meet, they shall appropriate to the relief of the most necessitous cases first, without respect to location.

ART. V .- Board of Managers .- The Board of Managers shall consist of a President, who shall be the senior Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church; of Vice-Presidents, who shall be the remaining Bishops, ranking according to seniority in office, the Conference Vice-Presidents, and two other Vice-Presidents, chosen annually by the society; a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and thirty-six members, and the traveling preachers stationed in the city of New-York, or engaged in the Book-Room, together with the Presiding Elder of the New-York district.

ART. VI. - Annual Meetings, and Anniversary. - The Annual Meeting of this Society shall be held in the second week of January, when the Corresponding Secretary shall submit the Annual Report, the Treasurer exhibit a certified statement of his accounts, and the election of officers and managers for the ensuing year be held. There shall also be held an Anniversary Meeting of the Society. at such time and place as the Board of Managers may appoint.

ART. VII.—Powers of the Board of Managers.-- The Board of Managers shall have the power to form their own By-Laws; to fill vacancies occurring during the year; to call special meetings of the Society whenever they shall deem necessary; to prepare and circulate such Sunday-school information, appeals, or directions, as they may think proper; to give orders on the Book Agents for such books as may be needed, and to transact such other business as of right belongs to their station, and which the interests of the Union may demand.

ART. VIII .- Alterations of Constitution. - This Constitution cannot be altered, except by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on the recommendation of the Society, at a meeting ealled for that purpose, after, at least, one month's public notice; or by the Society, on the recommendation of the General Conference.

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