

Who is to blame? No individual is responsible. A crisis came to the Church. Unfortunately, financial provision was not made to meet the exigencies of the crisis and avert the unhappy consequences. With gratitude, we record significant manifold of revived interest in our mission work, as portents of promise for the adequate support of our missionaries in the future. But we must not overlook our present responsibility to aid our suffering brethren. We hesitate to suggest any method of action. Indeed, the more informal the method the more conservative will it be on the other financial interests of the Church.

Let the ministers, and especially the chairmen, detail the case to affluent and generous members, soliciting their aid; let the officary give the offerings of a Sabbath for this good work; let the amount collected within the Conferences be transmitted to the several presidents for their wise distribution.

A slight effort on the part of each, and the work of justice and benevolence is accomplished; and to the homes of our distressed brethren there will come that cheer which will make the hearts of the household to gladness, like some old Christmas chime.

Incisive and potent are the words of the beloved disciple, never sacred, as enshrined in our encharistic ritual: "Whoso hath this world's good and seeth his brethren have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

May we as a Church authenticate our love.

GEO. DOUGLAS.

Wesleyan Theo. Col., Montreal.

Good Sunday-school Books.

Sacred and Historic Lands, being a record of travels in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Greece, Constantinople, etc. By the Rev. James Cuthbertson. London: Wesleyan Conference Office.

This is a 12mo. volume of 251 pages, good paper and bold, clear type. The style of the author is perspicuous and clear. He tells what he saw during the three months' tour in the East. The majority of readers will read with the deepest interest the author's description of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jacob's Well, Cana of Galilee, Tiberias, and many other sacred scenes. The volume is very suitable for a place in Sunday-school libraries, and may be read with great advantage by scholars in Bible-classes, who desire to know the most recent intelligence respecting Bible lands.

The Pride of the Family. By Anne E. Keeling. Same publisher.

Miss Keeling, the authoress of this beautiful volume, is the daughter of a Wesleyan minister whom the present writer has sometimes heard preach in his native village in good old England. Miss Keeling is a frequent contributor to Wesleyan magazines and other periodicals. She excels as a writer of narrative pieces. The

book before us was previously published in the *Wesleyan Miscellany*, and afterwards issued in this elegant volume for Sunday-school libraries, for which it is well adapted. Ruth Lucas, the prominent actor of the story, was a young girl who was taken into a respectable family as a nurse, and remained there until she was enfeebled with age. She was a member of the Methodist Church from her youth, and was always allowed time to attend class-meeting and other Methodist services. The family passed through many reverses, but Ruth's consistent piety and Christian devotedness won most, if not all, the members of the family to Christ. The only daughter whom Ruth nursed when a baby was "the pride of the family," cared for her old nurse and provided her a comfortable home.

Bernard the Little Guide, and other Stories. Same publisher.

This is one of a series of reward books, all of which are written in a pleasant style, calculated to captivate young readers. The little volume, now mentioned, contains three stories, *Bernard the Little Guide*, *The Flower Angel*, and *The War of the Fairies*, with four illustrations.

Preparing in Time.

SABBATH-SCHOOL teachers regret the fact that their scholars so often come into class with little or no preparation on the lesson. The trouble is, this duty is often postponed until Sabbath morning, when there is no time for the needed study. The solution of the difficulty can be found in making the necessary preparation the preceding Sabbath afternoon, or Saturday evening. The children will then rise Sabbath morning with comfort and a sense of satisfaction, such as comes from duty done. It tends to give relief, also, from the hurry and bustle too often seen in Christian homes on Sabbath morning.

As far as our observation goes, the people who make suitable and possible preparation Saturday evening, rise as early Sabbath as any other day, are the best rested people on Monday morning, and all the better qualified for the duties of the week. In the matter, habit has much to do, and we believe it a false idea that late sleeping and irregular habits on Sabbath morning promote our physical and intellectual comfort. And as to our spiritual welfare, it is decidedly best to strictly obey the teaching of the Catechism: "The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is taken up in the works of necessity and mercy." Considering the commandment, considering its influence upon our children and others and its direct result in our own experience we do not think late sleeping on Sabbath morning can be shown to be a work of necessity or mercy.—*Herald and Presbyter.*