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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to recent demands for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of reporting all necessary statistics of our Sabbath Schools, as well as preparing the returns asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Rolls 60 cents per doz. Price of School Registers 30 cents each. Address—

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Notes of the Week.

It is a profoundly significant fact, says a contemporary, that even the most popular preacher in London has never ventured on a regular course of Scriptural exposition from the pulpit. The strain on the nervous system of men and women in the great city is so heavy as to make a connected line of study unpalatable.

BRITISH India, according to the new census, has 220,500,000 souls, and there are 65,500,000 in India not under British control, making a total of 286,000,000. This indicates a growth of 26,000,000 since 1881. Think of such an increase, and the conversion of India to Christianity seems almost hopeless. But this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Le Signal thinks that the Pope's Encyclical will not do much to advance the cause of social reform. "It is neither original nor profound. Its tone is lofty, but not impressive; its doctrines are wise, but not convincing; its tone is charitable, but neither passionate nor bold. Masters will receive it with a sceptical smile; the Vatican has no terrors for them. The men will receive it with indifference and scorn; such language will neither calm their anger nor control their impatience."

THERE is a marked increase in the desire for education in Egypt. In 1887, there were only twelve Government schools, with an attendance of 1,919 pupils, of whom but fifty per cent. paid fees; last year there were forty-seven schools, with an attendance of 7,307, of whom sixty-two per cent. are paying pupils. In addition to Arabic, every pupil must learn English or French. Six young Egyptians have been sent to training colleges in England to qualify them as teachers.

THE Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society is to celebrate its jubilee in November. The Society is the pioneer in this department of Christian service. It has been carried on on strictly undenominational lines. Missionaries have been drawn from all Christian Churches and from all parts of the kingdom. During the last ten years it has sent out fifty-three missionaries. To meet the requirements of the rapidly growing work the Society makes a jubilee appeal for \$50,000, to enable them to make substantial additions to the Livingstone Memorial Training Institution in which the work is carried on.

THE Rev. Lewis Davidson, of Mayfield Free Church, Edinburgh, on making his first appearance in his own pulpit after his return from Calcutta, discoursed on the sixty-fifth Psalm. He made touching reference to his late serious illness, and then dwelt at some length on the religious condition of India. His experience had been that while the people of every creed—Mohammedan, Hindoo, Buddhist, and devil-worshipper—were sincere in their beliefs, there was unrest everywhere; the worship was cold and formal, and it needed but the presence of Christ enthroned in their temples, to bring them true peace.

THE *Saturday Review* gives Dr. Donald Fraser credit for the best thing said at the meeting of the Liberal Unionist Federation in St. James Hall. "He is unreported, but his rebuke lives in the meek acceptance of it by Sir Henry James, from whom it drew an expression of penitence and a faint promise,

for self and partners, of amendment. Dr. Donald Fraser exhorted the Liberal leaders not to be so tame in the future as they had been in the past. As a Scotchman, a Presbyterian, and a clergyman, he is naturally of a combative habit. He is by threefold qualification a fighting man. The peaceful profession of the law, unlike the militant calling of the preacher, indisposes a man to words of violence."

THE *Chicago Interior* says: Lord Salisbury has set a high standard before Mr. Blaine in his choice of Behring Sea arbitrators, by following English custom of choosing men eminently fitted by training and experience for this particular duty. Sir George Baden-Powell is not only a trained diplomat, but he already knows a great deal about Behring Sea from a four years' residence at Victoria, B.C., in an official capacity; and Mr. Dawson, the Canadian member of the board, is as well fitted in this respect as Sir George. It is a shrewd move on Salisbury's part to send these arbitrators on a two months' trip among the sealing grounds to study the situation, and so fit themselves to sit as experts on the case.

AN exchange says: The religious newspaper makes the teaching of the Bible practical and present. It applies revealed truth to daily living, makes it a power in the decisions which must be made in those smaller affairs where the purposes of life are shaped and developed for its great crises. It re-enforces the utterances of the pastor, instructs the Church in many ways by the recorded experiences of other Churches, and helps to guide and quicken its spiritual life. Most of the new movements by which the Churches advance in strength and influence are started by information which is first spread through the religious newspaper. Christians who do not read it know little and feel little their relations to the body to which they belong, and are little moved to join its work to bring the nations to Christ.

THE procureur of the holy synod and the former teacher of the Czar has hitherto received most of the blame for the persecution of the dissenters in Russia; but it would seem, after all, that he is not the primary cause of the evil. Recent and trustworthy information from St. Petersburg goes to show that it is the Czar himself who is determined to make all other religions in the empire yield to that of the State. "One empire, one language, one religion," the motto of the tyrannical Nicholas, has become the ideal of Alexander III. also. Recently through the influence of a powerful Jew a memorandum describing the sufferings of the Jews of Russia was placed in the hands of the Czar. Having read it carefully, he said: "This memorandum is a remarkable document. It contains some excellent arguments; at places it is even eloquent, and it produces facts which are really sad; but we must never forget that it was the Jews who crucified our Lord and shed His noble blood."

PREACHING on "Presbyterianism and American Independence" in the Fourth Presbyterian Church, New York, recently, the Rev. H. L. Singleton traced the influence of Presbyterianism on the early history of America, and enforced by reference to historic facts the saying of Ranke, "John Calvin may be considered the founder of the free States of America," and likewise that of Bancroft, "He who does not revere the memory and honour the name of Calvin knows little of the origin of American liberty." The Presbyterians, the preacher pointed out, ante-dated all other Protestant emigrants to this country, and their clergy and schools took an active part in rearing the generations which inaugurated and sustained the Revolution. The great majority of the officers of the army and of the men in the ranks were Scotch and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The Presbyterians made the first Declaration of Independence, when they secured the separation of Church and State and the Government of the country was formed on the model of Presbyterianism. Without the Presbyterian Church, and particularly the Scotch-Irish portion thereof, the history and Government of the United States would not have been possible.

THE Annual Convention of the National Educational Association of the United States for the present year will be held at Toronto, Canada, July 14 to 17, and as it will on this occasion be of an international character, it promises to be the most successful meeting of the series. Most of the railroads have agreed to give half-rates, plus \$2.00 membership fee, to all who attend the meeting, this rate being open to the public generally as well as the teachers. Toronto people are making great preparations to welcome and entertain the visiting teachers, and numerous cheap excursions are being arranged to all important points on the great lakes, the St. Lawrence, and the sea-side, after the Convention, which will afford to teachers the best opportunity for enjoying their summer holidays they have ever had. The official bulletin, containing programme for the meeting, railway arrangements, and all other particulars, is ready, and will be sent free to any one desiring it, on their dropping a post card to Mr. H. J. Hill, Sec'y Local Committee, Toronto.

THE *Halifax Presbyterian Witness* says: Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, the indefatigable Convener of the Sabbath School Committee, calls our attention to the following item in the report of Assembly proceedings in the *Presbyterian Review*: A clause to the effect that a handbook of school management and work prepared by a member of the Committee be approved and recommended "as a useful guide" was almost unanimously struck out, as was also a clause, the adoption of which it was thought would commit the Assembly to recognizing and sanctioning any Sabbath School Class Registers other than those prepared under the direction of and approved and recommended by former Assemblies, and now known as "the General Assembly's Sabbath School Registers." It is to the sentence referring to the Registers that Mr. Fotheringham refers.—The motion which passed was proposed by the editor of the *Presbyterian Witness*. The end he had in view was simply to prevent the Assembly being committed to any register. It appears that there are in the field rival registers published in Toronto. Just as we would not commit the Assembly to the handbook, we would not commit the Assembly to any register. This was the intention of the mover of the resolution, and we believe it was the intention of the Assembly. It will be seen then that in so far as the *Review* conveys a different meaning it has misapprehended what was done.

JUBILEE services have been held at the Free Church of Marnoch, where the Disruption may be said to have begun—the congregation rebelling against the intrusion of a minister against their will. Principal Rainy and the venerable Principal Brown, of Aberdeen (who was present at the famous forced settlement), preached sermons on the Sabbath. The following day a conference, a dinner, and a public meeting in the evening were held. At the conference a pathetic incident occurred which is thus described by a contemporary: At this point, Mr. Stronach, of Ardmellie, who is ninety six years of age, entered the meeting. Mr. Stronach, who is known as a munificent benefactor of the Free Church in the North, took a prominent part in connection with the Disruption at Marnoch fifty years ago, and as a Justice of the Peace his services were requisitioned by the authorities when a disturbance in the Church was anticipated in connection with the forced settlement of Mr. Edwards, the Earl of Fife's presentee. Mr. Stronach, who is the oldest elder in the Free Church of Scotland, was accommodated with a seat beside the communion table. Shortly after he had taken his seat, a profoundly pathetic and impressive scene was witnessed. Principal Brown, the oldest minister of the Free Church of Scotland, descended from the platform to salute Mr. Stronach, whom he had not met since the historical day in January, 1841, when the Marnoch Free Church was founded. The venerable Principal, in greeting the aged elder, who is in very feeble health, fell on his neck and kissed him, both of them shedding copious tears and sobbing aloud. The pathetic spectacle caused a profound sensation throughout the Church; grown-up men shed tears like children; nearly everybody was visibly affected, and there was hardly a dry eye in the whole building.