

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

BIBLE PICTURES FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHEME OF LESSONS FOR 1881. (New York: R. W. Shoppell, Bible House.)—These pictures may greatly help the teacher, especially with young children. They are not great works of art, but are as good as are going, and at the price charged.

THE LEISURE HOUR, THE SUNDAY AT HOME, THE BOY'S OWN PAPER, THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER. (London: Religious Tract Society. Toronto: Wm. Warwick & Son.)—We are glad to understand that the circulation of these publications in Canada is increasing to a gratifying extent. That such should be the case is a token for good. If they finally and completely supplant the wretched trash which comes in from the States to such a lamentable extent, it will be a matter for unfeigned rejoicing to all who wish well to Canada. One cannot but feel both saddened and ashamed at seeing the kind of papers still exposed for sale in so many of our book and newspaper stores—papers which in both a literary and artistic point of view are utterly beneath contempt and are saved from being regarded with absolute indifference simply from the fact that they are exercising a most injurious influence upon the intellect, morality, and taste of the rising generation. The pictorial illustrations given in these papers are positively hideous, their views of life unnatural, and corrupting in no ordinary degree, while the intellectual ability displayed is as weak as the moral tendency is wicked and debasing. But mere denunciation will never stop the circulation of such publications. On the contrary, it often gives them only greater currency. The only way is to supply a better and more attractive article, and this the Religious Tract Society and other societies are doing in a very energetic and most gratifyingly successful manner. There is no more important and efficient auxiliary to the preacher of the Gospel than the religious press, and that minister is not wise even on the low ground of individual selfishness who does not do all in his power to encourage and promote the circulation of a pure and wholesome literature among the members of his flock, and especially among the younger portion of it.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

MR. EDITOR,—Along with Rev. Mr. Kelso, of Roslin, I was invited to address missionary meetings, this week, in the churches at Melrose and Lonsdale. It was an intensely cold day, and glad was I to be accompanied by a member of my own church, a Mr. McCoy, who kindly took charge of the driving. When we arrived about noon at the Rev. Mr. Turnbull's manse, I inadvertently named my friend Mackay in introducing him. After dinner we started for Lonsdale, where the first meeting was to be held. On the way we met a farmer mounted on a load of flour, to whom we were all introduced, and "Mr. Mackay" along with the rest. On our return to the manse I found Mr. McLaren, an old and highly respected resident, waiting patiently for us. Mr. McLaren said to me, as I was the first to see him, that after reading the addresses of the Rev. Dr. Mackay, delivered in Montreal, he had made up his mind to present the missionary with a \$50 bill, and having heard that the Dr. was with us he had come to deliver it in person. On being informed of the mistake, the old gentleman said it did not matter, except that he was disappointed in not meeting with Dr. Mackay, but he would give us the \$50, to be duly forwarded. Now, Mr. Editor, was not this a delightful little episode not little, we should say, seeing the largeness of the gift, the earnestness of the donor, and the good example that was given to the members of our Church at large. Nor was this all that the magic name of Mackay did for us that day. The church at Melrose was crowded to the door, and of course you will see how modest we are when we say it was all to hear the great missionary. The Methodists—all honour to them—were in full force. Of course, the mistake was soon understood, and the joke was greatly enjoyed. No one went away before the meeting closed, which speaks well for the deputation. We had a splendid meeting. The statement of Rev. Mr. Turnbull shewed his people were up to two dollars per member, for Home Missions, besides something considerable for the other schemes. Rev. Mr. Kelso in the course of an able and instructive address upon Home Missions, shewed, that if all

the members throughout the Church were giving in like proportion it would result in netting \$200,000 per annum for the scheme. At the close of my address on Foreign Missions, there was a general call for "Dr. Mackay," who modestly remarked that if he were to have a nickname bestowed upon him, he did not know of a better one than he had got. I was so full of mirth and joy at the mistake and its consequences that I never felt the drive home, though the mercury was low down in the zeros. D. MITCHELL.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—An ordinary meeting of the Presbytery was held on the 11th, 12th and 13th current; business occupying four diets, and conferences on the state of religion and Sabbath-school work occupying other five. The principal business was the consideration of an appeal from the session of Cooke's Church, Toronto, taken by Messrs. James Bain, John Oliver, Anthony Bell, John McMillan, James Johnson, Sr., and James Johnson, Jr., on account of a decision come to by said session suspending them from church membership. The grounds of the session's decision must be known to most of our readers, and need not be reported here. After reading the papers and hearing all the parties in the case, the Presbytery proceeded to give judgment. It was moved by Rev. J. M. King, seconded by Rev. P. Macleod, "That the Presbytery refuse to sustain the appeal, as the action, for which no regret was expressed before the session, justified it in suspending the appellants from sealing ordinances; at the same time express regret that the session took no action in the way of expressing its disapprobation in this case of the conduct of those members of the congregation who took the appellants before the police court before seeking redress from the courts of the Church; but as most of the appellants have expressed their regret for the action, on account of which they were suspended, remit the case to the session of Cooke's Church to be further dealt with, and appoint assessors with it in this case." In amendment, it was moved by Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, seconded by Rev. H. M. Parsons, "That the motion be amended by striking out all the words from 'at the same time' down to 'the courts of the Church.'" The motion carried by a large majority, and thus became the judgment of the house. On its being announced to the parties, and the question being put to them whether they acquiesced therewith, they severally said that they did. At a subsequent stage, and pursuant to the decision come to, the following brethren were appointed assessors, viz., Revs. Dr. Reid, Prof. McLaren, Joseph Alexander and Messrs. T. W. Tayler, Arthur T. Marling, J. L. Blaikie and James Mitche. On motion made by Rev. R. Wallace, seconded by Rev. W. Meikle, it was resolved to nominate Professor McLaren as Moderator of the next General Assembly. A part of two diets was spent in considering the Assembly's remit on a Sustentation Fund. Ultimately no deliverance was come to; but notice was given by Mr. Macleod of the following motion for next ordinary meeting.—"Approve the principle of a Sustentation Fund, and in order thoroughly to test the practicability of the plan now before the Church, suggest that it be sent down to sessions and congregations as the committee recommend, and reported upon to the General Assembly of 1882." Notice was also given by Mr. King of the following amendment. "That the Presbytery express its preference for a Supplementing Fund as distinguished from a Sustentation Fund, and is of opinion that the time has come when this fund as now existing, should be separated from the Home Mission Fund, and made a distinct fund of the Church, and when such modifications should be made in the principles on which it is administered as would better secure the end contemplated, an adequate maintenance of the ministry of the Church." On motion made by the Clerk, it was agreed to hold the next ordinary meeting on Tuesday, the 1st of March, at eleven a.m. and three p.m. of that day, to appoint commissioners to the next General Assembly. A circular was read from the Convener of the Assembly's Committee on the State of Religion, transmitting questions thereon. It was moved and agreed, to instruct sessions to send their answer to the questions not later than the 1st of March; and Revs. John Hogg, D. Macintosh and Mr. James Brown were appointed a committee to prepare a report founded thereon. A circular was read from the Assembly's Committee on Temperance, containing a series of questions on said matter, and requesting answers from

the Presbytery thereon. On motion made by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Macdonnell, it was resolved as follows:—"The Presbytery having received a circular from the Assembly's Committee on Temperance, express their disapproval of a number of the questions contained in the circular; but recognizing the importance of the subject to which the circular refers, and the great injury wrought to religion by intemperance, agree to hold a conference on the subject at next meeting of Presbytery, and to follow it with such a report to the Committee of Assembly as the facts then elicited and the opinions expressed would warrant." A circular was read from the Convener of the Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Schools, transmitting inquiries on Sabbath-school work. Rev. Dr. Fraser was appointed the Presbytery's agent on this matter; and Rev. J. Hogg and Mr. D. McMillan were associated with him, as a committee to prepare a report founded on the answers to be received. An application was read from the trustees of the congregation of Charles street, Toronto, pursuant to a resolution passed by said congregation, asking leave from the Presbytery to mortgage their church property to the extent of \$7,000, on such terms, as to interest and repayment of principal as may be agreed on, such loan to cover and discharge the present mortgage debt. The above application was granted. The Presbytery Treasurer, Rev. J. M. Cameron, submitted his accounts for the past year, which, after being audited, were found to be correct, leaving a small balance on hand. Several other matters were taken up and disposed of, but of no public interest. And the undersigned would only add that he relies on sessions, especially their moderators, to transmit their replies without unnecessary delay. R. MONTEATH, *Pres. Clerk.*

DR. COCHRAN has received \$50 from Rev. Mr. Pitblado, of Halifax, to be devoted to missions in the North-West.

MR. JAMES CUMBERLAND, M.A., probationer, has accepted a call from Amherst Island, in the Presbytery of Kingston.

ON Sabbath, the 19th Dec., the new Presbyterian Church at Duntroon, Nottawasaga, was opened for divine worship. The services on the occasion were conducted by the Rev. E. D. McLaren, B.D., of Brampton, who preached earnest and impressive discourses in the morning and evening, and by the Rev. M. McGillivray, M.A., of Scarborough, who preached in the afternoon a very eloquent and forcible sermon on Prov. xv. 26. The church at the several diets of worship was filled to its utmost capacity. The building, which is of red brick with white ornaments, is 54x32 feet, with tower containing porch in front. It is lighted with nice stained-glass windows. The seats and principal rafters are of pine stained and varnished. It is seated for nearly three hundred, and both inside and out presents an elegant and tasteful appearance. It supplies a much-felt want in this place, and the people of Duntroon may justly feel proud of their church, which does much credit to them. The cost of the building without the vestry and school-room (not yet erected), and exclusive of the labour of the congregation in drawing building materials, is about \$3,500. Of this amount about \$800 yet remains to be provided; but judging from the spirit of liberality displayed by the congregation since the work was begun, this small debt will no doubt soon be wiped off. There was no abatement in the interest on Monday, when a tea-meeting was held. After refreshments had been partaken of in the town hall, there was a general movement toward the church, which soon became crowded. The chair was taken at seven p.m. by the pastor, Rev. Alex. McDonald, who gave a brief sketch of the origin of the congregation and its progress down to the present. Along with him on the platform were the Rev. Messrs. McLaren, McGillivray, Rodgers of Collingwood, and E. McDonald of Creemore, by all of whom eloquent, amusing and instructive addresses were given. A choir from Creemore, under the direction of Mr. Spacy, contributed to the enjoyment of the evening. Financially and otherwise the opening services and tea-meeting were a success, nearly \$200 being realized. We are pleased to add that the other two congregations associated with Duntroon, under the same pastor, are equally prosperous. Each of the three has a good church, with sheds, etc., two of which have been erected within the last three years. Evidently the people have a mind to the work. We hope they will improve even upon themselves.