

SUNDAY-SCHOOL NOTES.

—To December 1 the number increased to 438 new Sunday schools, and enlisted 1802 men and women in the work of giving Bible instruction to 15,224 children and youth, who otherwise would not have been cared for.

—In about one-third of the reports gathered on Sunday-school work in the Congregational churches in Massachusetts, the past year, the pastor has a Bible class. He ought to have one and a large one in every case, as a rule, where he does not preach a second sermon.

—A correspondent communicates this item, which throws some light on Sunday-school work in the Far West: Team consecration, as a sequel of heart consecration, is illustrated by a remark of a superintendent of a union mission school recently organized in Dakota. Speaking to a missionary of the American Sunday-school Union, of some who said their teams must rest on Sunday, and so refused to take their families two or three miles to a Sunday-school, he said, "Well, my team belongs to the Sunday school just as much as I do."

—On the last Sabbath in September, Mr. B. F. Jacobs of Chicago completed his twenty-fifth year as a Sunday school superintendent, fourteen of them having been spent in connection with two mission schools and eleven with his church school. Five foreign missionaries, fifty preachers, and over fifty Sunday-school superintendents have gone forth from his training, while the number of converts is estimated at 750. He has been absent from his post but twice on account of illness. Few workers can show a more honourable record.

—From March 1 to Aug. 1, the missionaries of the American Sunday School Union in the North west established 314 new Sunday schools, in frontier settlements and destitute communities. These schools have 1,347 teachers and 9,983 scholars. The society has recently commissioned additional missions in Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and California, and arrangements are completed for sending men to Utah and Oregon. Missionaries will be sent to other Territories as soon as the funds can be secured. A Christian lady has furnished Superintendent Ensign the means to sustain a new missionary one year. Many more men could be employed, only means are wanting.

—The thirty-seventh annual report just issued of the Church of England Sunday-school Institute for 1880-81, forms a bulky 12mo volume of 360 pages. The greater part of this space is taken up with condensed accounts of the centenary celebrations observed by the church associations, and by statements of the results of such celebrations. The Sunday school centenary was made the occasion of compiling the statistics of Church of England Sunday schools. Complete returns were obtained from 8,405 out of 14,466 parishes. These showed a total of 1,289,273 scholars and 113,412 teachers. The total number of scholars, including those in the parishes which have no returns, is estimated at 2,222,891. A detailed table of statistics is given in the reports.

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

—A prize of two thousand francs is offered by the French Temperance Society for the best essay on the question, "Do alcoholic drinks introduced into the physical economy undergo any modifications there?" The competition remains open till January, 1882.

—It is a curious fact, that the eight States which have a prohibitory liquor law make United States revenue returns amounting to nearly one sixth of the retail liquor sales in the whole country, viz., \$122,000,000.—*Christian Intelligencer*.

—The net results of prohibition in the State of Maine are summed up by ex-Governor Dingley, who states that the number of dramshops has been reduced from one to every 225 inhabitants, in 1833, to less than one secret groggery to every 1,000 inhabitants in 1881, while the sales of these secret shops are less than one-fourth what they would be in openly licensed saloons. He also states that the criminal records afford convincing proof of the benefits of prohibition; there being in Maine only one State prison convict to 2,7000 inhabitants. That proportion is lower than obtains in seven States which he mentions. The proportion in New is one to 1,400.

—The Rev. Henry Clay Trumbull shows in *The Sunday School Times*, that it is possible to travel through Europe without being reduced to take wine as a beverage. We have no doubt of it. He quotes so distinguished a medical authority as Sir Henry Thompson, who said in a recent letter to the *London Times*: "I can affirm, . . . without hesitation, that the ordinary traveller need never run the risk of drinking poisoned water. I may also add here that it is equally unnecessary to drink alcoholic liquor of any kind. . . . During the last ten years, of which a total of more than two has been spent in Continental hotels, I have never consumed any other liquids than tea, coffee, and mineral waters."

—The moderate use of lager beer was advocated in a letter of Senator Blair's read before the Conference of the National Prohibition Alliance in New York on Wednesday. We had thought that the question of lager beer as a "temperance" drink had been finally disposed of, but it seems that there are some people, and amongst them even delegates to a prohibition convention, who will still labour under the absurd delusion that lager is non-intoxicating. Not only is the beer intoxicating, notwithstanding the fact that some obese Germans are able to drink a gallon or two of it without becoming absolutely drunk, but it was conclusively proved by investigations set afoot last summer by a respectable New York newspaper that for the greater part it is most vilely adulterated and consequently prejudicial to health, while the great increase of late years in kidney complaints and that terrible and deadly disease known as Bright's disease was attributed by a large number of the most eminent physicians in New York city to its use. Therefore, even if lager beer were not intoxicating it is in other ways a disease-producing drink. *Montreal Witness*.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NOTES.

—Messrs Moody and Sankey have commenced their work in Great Britain. They are holding meetings in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

—In the Methodist Council at London a French Methodist pastor said that the France of today is no longer Papist, and the France of today is not yet atheist. The opportunity is open to the Christian church.

—Ten years the Patriarch of Constantinople sent an *ultimatum* to President Washburn, of Robert College, to the effect that all Christian instruction must cease, or the Armenian students would all leave. He replied that the Faculty proposed to "run" the College, and that Christian instruction would be maintained. The Armenian students were withdrawn. But they so insisted at home on returning that all but seven or eight were soon in their classes again. And that same Patriarch has since commended the College in almost unmeasured terms.

—The "Old Believers" of Russia are being freed from persecution by the new Czar. Three of their Bishops who have been imprisoned since 1858 have been set at liberty. They refused to accept

the belief and practices of the orthodox Greek Church, but adhered to their ancient faith which, as well as their form of worship, is purer than that of either the Greek or the Roman Catholic Churches. The Czar is pursuing a wise policy in this course, and will make his throne and his life more secure by so acting as to secure the affection and not the fear of his subjects.

—The Evangelical movement in Russia under Colonel Basil Pashkoff, a lay preacher, and one of the richest men of Russia, is attracting considerable attention. Earnest Gospel meetings are held on Sabbath evenings in the Colonel's own house, the "splendid apartments which were formerly open only to the elite of Russian society for balls, are filled to overflowing by crowds belonging to the lowest orders of society, who are anxious to hear the good news of salvation, and who are moved to tears and supplications for relief from the burden of sin."

—There are ministers who suffer for conscience' sake without going to prison, as witnesseth the Rev. F. J. Wood, M.A., vicar of St. Michael's, Headingly. He received a communication from the Prime Minister, offering him the Deanery of Carlisle. Mr Wood took a week to consider the proposal, and then replied that he had been accustomed to hard parish work all his public life, and preferred to continue in such work. Mr. Gladstone, in acknowledging this letter, commended Mr. Wood upon his self-denying and devoted spirit. The value of the Deanery of Carlisle is £1,425 per annum, or upwards of £800 a year more than the living at Headingly.

—Another case is that of a Congregational minister who recently died at Graham's Town, the Rev. H. N. Smit. Some years ago the then Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Forces at the Cape, anxious to recognize and reward his long and faithful services to a cavalry regiment, in church, hospital, barracks, and at the grave-side, obtained the consent of the Imperial Government to the offer of an allowance of £100 per annum, with £1000 as ten years' back pay. The offer was declined with these words: "It would be a welcome addition to my salary, if I could conscientiously accept it, but my principles will not allow me to do so."

—Rev. H. Davis, of Samoa, thinks it utterly absurd to talk of commerce preparing the way for Christianity. He says: "It may do so in another planet, but certainly not in the groups which, during the past nineteen years, have been evangelized by our Samoan natives. On my former visit some of these islands had no trader, and in no case more than one or two. Heathen Nanumea had none for a time. Christian Nanumea has on its shores agents for four large commercial houses, in addition to the store of his Majesty King of Apemama. No less than thirty-seven stores compete for the trade of these islands, besides occasional vessels from Fiji, Sydney, California, etc. Now the people are Christians, they want clothing, books and other things, and are in consequence far more industrious."

—While we in Canada are gradually but surely giving up our Sabbath rest, and allowing wealthy and unscrupulous corporations to do very much as they please with the Sabbath laws which still, apparently as a matter of form, remain on the statute book, the people on the European continent are trying to struggle back to the old state of things, which, by sad experience, they have found to be better than the everlasting drive which modern cupidity and ungodliness have thought indispensable. Minister Meybach of Germany has drawn up several regulations, designed to secure rest on the Sabbath for railway officials, which,

if faithfully executed, will produce beneficial results. The assembly of German paper-makers, lately held at Nurnberg, unanimously resolved to discontinue all work on the Sabbath at once. In Cassel a great many citizens have requested that no papers or letters be delivered to them on the Sabbath by the post-office, except those marked "express." A Sabbath Union has been formed in Lunenburg and in Griefswald to reduce Sunday work as far as possible. The French Minister of the post-office and telegraph department has made inquiries whether a law cannot be enacted giving rest to all his officials on every alternate Lord's day. The French paper makers are more and more observing the Sabbath. The great Paris-Lyons-Mediterranean Railway Company has granted rest on every alternate Sunday to their servants at all stations. In Switzerland the Jure-Berne-Lucerne Railway has done the same, and the radical Canton of Appenzell have prohibited public dancing on Saturday evenings and on the Sabbath. A considerable number of merchants there have begun to close their shops all day Sunday. In Austria, the Minister of Worship and Instruction has issued a decree forbidding all public work on the Sabbath and holy-days, and Count Chorinsky of Salzburg has issued a similar order to all workmen under his control. Only work of necessity is to be allowed, and that only after mid day.—*Canada Presbyterian*.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

—St. Margaret's church, near Westminster Abbey, is being restored. A stained glass window is to be contributed by Americans and dedicated to Sir Walter Raleigh.

—Dr. Schliemann's Trojan antiquities, including all the gold and silver ornaments of the so-called treasure of Priam, have been presented to the Emperor of Germany, and are placed in the museum at Berlin.

—It is stated as a fact, that no President of the United States, from Washington to Garfield, was born in a city, and but one, John Quincy Adams, was ever a resident of a city, at the time of his election.

—The Turkish Minister of Police has forbidden the Constantinople ladies to wear the thin, narrow veils which have become fashionable, in public places and crowded streets, but requires them to have more secure protection for the face.

—A memorial window of richly stained glass is to be placed over the pew occupied by President Garfield in St. James' Church, Long Branch. The pew in which the President sat is also to be indicated by a silver plate with an appropriate inscription.

—One of the few "relics" of which Methodism can boast is the well-known pocket Bible which each successive President of the English Wesleyan Conference is permitted during his year of office to have. It was used by Wesley when engaged in field preaching.

—"Ichabod" is now written over the doors of the building once known as Surrey Chapel. It is to be used as a show room and warehouse for agricultural implements. Notwithstanding the fact that two pastors have succeeded Rowland Hill, and well sustained the traditions of the place, it is still familiarly called Rowland Hill's Chapel, and I suppose will so continue to be as long as it stands.

—It is said that the private fortune of Queen Victoria amounts to \$80,000,000 and she possesses an annual income of \$3,250,000. Before her birth her parents were so poor that they had to borrow the money to pay their passage to England, that the expected princess might be born on British soil, and she remained in comparative poverty until she ascended the throne.