

SONG OF THE DECANter.

THERE was an old decanter,
and its mouth was gaping
wide; the rosy wine
had ebbed away
and left
its crys-
tal side;
and the wind
went humming,
humming;
up and
down the
sides it flew,
and through the
reed-like
hollow neck
the wildest notes it
blew. I placed it in the
window, where the blast was
blowing free, and fancied that its
pale mouth sang the queerest strains
to me. "They tell me—punny con-
querors—the Plague has slain his ten,
and War his hundred thousand of the
very best of men; but I"—twas thus the
bottle spoke—"but I have conquered
more than all your famous conquer-
ors, so feared and famed of yore.
Then come, ye youths and maidens,
come drink from out my cup the beve-
rage that dulls the brain and burns
the spirit up; that puts to shame
the conquerors that slay their
scores below; for this has deluged
millions with the lava tide
of woe. Though in the path
of battle, darkest waves of
blood may roll; yet while
I killed the body, I have
damned the very soul.
The cholera, the word
such run never wrought
as I in mirth or malice, on
the innocent have brought.
And still I breathe upon them,
and they shrink before my breath,
and yearly year my thousands tread
THE FEARFUL ROAD TO DEATH."

FORWARD MISSIONARY MOVE-
MENT AND WHAT IT WILL
COST.

DR. SUTHERLAND writes in
the following vigorous vein in
the *Missionary Outlook*:

When the great Union
movement is about reaching its final
stage in necessary legislation, it becomes
the Methodist Church to weigh carefully
her responsibilities, and plan for greatly
enlarged operations. Many interests
will claim attention, but none of them
equal in importance to the work of
Missions. The questions of the hour
are: What ought the Methodist
Church to do in regard to Missions?
What is she able to do?

It is not enough to say, in general
terms, that the Church should enlarge
her work, and push out into "the
regions beyond." We must indicate
more definitely the scope of the work
to be undertaken. We propose, there-
fore, that within the next six years,
that is, before the General Conference
of 1890, the Church should undertake:

1. To so strengthen her home force
as to keep pace with the needs of the
growing population of the Dominion,
especially in the North-West.

2. To bring up the allowance of
married missionaries on Domestic,
French, and Indian Missions, to the
minimum of \$750. This by a two-fold
method, (1) By increased grants where
really necessary; and, (2) By develop-
ing the giving power of the Missions
themselves.

3. To bring up the working strength
of the French Mission to 50 men—we
have twelve now. Anything less than
this is but trifling with the work.

4. To increase the force on the
Indian Missions (Missionaries, Native
Assistants, Teachers, and Interpreters)
to 150. The present number is about 86.

5. To give Japan five well-equipped
men for the Training College; increase
the number of our own missionaries to
20, and supplement these by 100 native
evangelists.

All this will involve the sending into
the mission field, within six years,
some 300 more men.

"Ridiculous! Absurd! The man
who makes such a proposal must be
insane!" Not so, brethren; we "speak
the words of truth and soberness." It
is no more than the Church ought to
do. It is no more than she is well
able to do, as we shall presently show.
"But," says some cautious, calculating
disciple, "it will require a vast amount
of money." Yes, a vast amount com-
pared with what we have hitherto
done; but not a vast amount com-
pared with the real ability of the
Church. This will be apparent when
we say that one cent a day for Missions
from each member of the United
Methodist Church will meet the cost of
all the work above mentioned, and leave
an annual surplus almost equal to the
present income of the Society!!

After this will anyone venture
to say the thing can't be done?
Surely not. But we know what some
will say. They will say: "Oh, yes;
the scheme looks well enough on paper,
but then the people will not give the
cent a day." If they will not, there
must be a serious fault somewhere, and
we suspect the fault is that the duty of
proportionate giving to the Lord—
never less than a tenth—has not been
clearly set before them. The proof is
found in the fact that, in churches
where this duty has been faithfully
inculcated, the giving for Missions
alone have steadily increased, and in
some cases amount to far more than
the cent a day.

We have but one thing more to say!
Do not let us wait till everybody else
has adopted the practice before we
begin it, but let each begin it forthwith;
the poorer members one cent a day, the
richer in proportion, and the results
will astonish us all.

BOOK NOTICES.

The Canadian Methodist Magazine
for April, 1884. Price \$2 a year;
\$1 for six months; 20 cents per
number. For sale at all Book-
sellers.

The April number of this Magazine
contains three splendidly illustrated
articles: Picturesque New Brunswick,
with fine views of St. John's City and
River; The Luther Monument at
Worms, by F. H. Wallace, B.D.,
with large engraving of the entire
group and of several of its statues;
and Lady Brassey's account of her
passage through Magellan's Straits,
with the rescue of a crew from a
burning ship, with numerous engra-
vings of the strange scenes of the
"Land of fire." Judge Dean contributes
a vigorous article on Christian Unity,
from the standpoint of a Methodist
layman, which will attract much
attention. William Kirby, F.R.S.C.,
has a paper on the U. E. Loyalists of
Canada, which is very timely, in view
of the approaching celebration of the
Centennial of the Province. "Britain's
Oldest Colony" recounts the strange
story of the Island of Newfoundland;
and "How Methodism came to Foxes,"
gives a graphic picture of its social and
religious life. The Editor, in an out-
spoken manner, discusses the Salvation
Army, the Bribery Scandal, Free

Discussion, etc. A marked feature is a
number of Easter Hymns and Carols,
and a fine Easter Anthem, with
music.

Early numbers will contain articles
by John Cameron, Esq., Editor of
the *Toronto Globe*, Rev. W. W. Ross,
Prof. Stewart, a reply to Bishop Fuller
on Christian Unity, Homes and Haunts
of Luther, English Cathedrals, Walks
about London, etc, etc.

Back numbers can still be supplied.
Specimen copies of the Magazine sent
free.

*The Torn Bible; or, Herbert's Best
Friend.* By Alice Somerton. Lon-
don: Frederic Warne & Co.; Toronto:
William Briggs. Pp. 175. Price
75 cents.

This is a story of the last century,
of a young soldier who goes to India,
falls into evil ways, forgets his mother's
Bible, and the Guide of his youth; but
who, in a far country, is brought to him-
self by the long forgotten teachings of
God's word. It is a sound and whole-
some book.

Layton Croft, The Story of a Prodigal.
Same Author and Publishers. Pp.
244. And same price.

The moral of this story is well ex-
pressed in the words, "Take care of
your boys; never let them be idle; give
them an occupation, and teach them to be
manly; and the manliest thing, next
to religion, is self-respect—a feeling
which will make them shun every
contemptible action." Both these
books are beautifully printed, illustrated,
and bound.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

A SUNDAY-SCHOOL superin-
tendent writes as follows:—

I have experienced some
difficulty in my school to get them to
repeat the Lord's Prayer in unison. As
a rule only about half-a-dozen repeat,
while many of the smaller scholars and
large ones too are whispering or looking
around. I have arranged the prayer
for a responsive reading, and while it
would be a very fine closing service, I
believe if you could arrange to publish
it, it would meet with the hearty
approbation of all Sunday-school
workers.

CLOSING SERVICE.

Superintendent—Our Father, which
art in heaven,

School—Hallowed be thy name,

Supt.—Thy kingdom come.

School—Thy will be done on earth
as it is done in heaven.

Supt.—Give us this day our daily
bread,

School—And forgive us our tres-
passes as we forgive those that trespass
against us,

Supt.—And lead us not into temp-
tation;

School—But deliver us from evil,

Supt.—For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for ever
and ever.

All—Amen.

REV. DR. COCHRAN will go to Japan
in a few months as missionary of the
Methodist Church. He formerly
worked in the country as a missionary
for six years, and acquired considerable
fluency in the native tongue. Five
years ago he was compelled to return,
owing to the ill-health of Mrs. Cochran.

CHARLES H. SPURGEON.

FEW Canadian tourists remain
over Sunday in London with-
out going to hear the great
Baptist preacher. No man
of his generation has ever given more
full proof of a successful ministry. For
twenty-eight years he has preached to
a congregation of more than 6,000
persons. He has received into church
membership nearly 10,000. He has
furnished weekly sermons for twenty-
seven years, and they have been trans-
lated into many foreign languages. He
has founded and presides over a College
which is unique in itself, preparing
one hundred for the ministry. He is
the originator and director of an Or-
phanage, giving a home to 500 needy
children. On the 25th anniversary of
his marriage, he gave the testimonial
then given him, of over \$30,000, to
provide an asylum for a score of poor
widows. He is the author of over
forty different volumes, including ser-
mons, commentaries, lectures, and essays.
The sale of one book alone, John
Ploughman, was over 300,000 copies.

Such a man as this is worth know-
ing about. Mr. Needham, the well-
known evangelist, is in hearty sym-
pathy with his subject, and in this
noble volume* has given us a bio-
graphy worthy of the man. The
vigorous intellect, the deep spirituality,
the earnest zeal, the strong common
sense, the executive ability, the broad
charity, the racy humour of the great
preacher are well set forth. Converted
in his sixteenth year in a Primitive
Methodist chapel, he began forthwith
to preach the Word, and became
thenceforth a burning and a shining
light on the right hand of God. No
man of his time, by the living voice
and printed page, has influenced so
many minds. To carp at his Calvin-
ism is to seek for spots on the sun.
God abundantly owns his preaching,
and well may man. His great soul
spurns the limitation of close com-
munion, and welcomes every believer
to Christian fellowship.

Copious extracts from Mr. Spur-
geon's writings are given. No man
better knows how to use homely
Anglo-Saxon speech. His John Plough-
man is as pithy as Bunyan and as
witty as Fuller, and the pictures are
very funny. This book has over forty
illustrations, including steel portraits
of Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon, and numer-
ous others of much interest. We
commend it warmly to both ministers
and laymen.

BETWEEN \$6,000 and \$7,000 have
been raised by subscription for the
enlargement of the Metropolitan
Church School-room. Work will be
commenced shortly, as the remainder
of the required sum, \$10,000, will
probably be raised in a few weeks.
The enlargement will, it is claimed,
make the school-room the largest in
the Dominion, and will accommodate
about 1,200 children.

ONE of our ministers writes as
follows about the *Methodist Magazine*:
I congratulate you on the splendid
illustrations and articles in the April
number of the *Magazine*; and what
beautiful paper! You are, I am sure,
meeting the most critical wish and
expectation of your subscribers.

* "The Life and Labours of Charles H.
Spurgeon." By George C. Needham. 8vo,
pp. 650. Boston: D. L. Guernsey. To-
ronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, cloth extra, \$4.