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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 requests 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.

THE next meeting of the British Association is to be held at Nottingham, under the presidency of Sir Archibald Geikie. The president-elect was born at Edinburgh in 1835. He was the first occupant of the chair of geology in the university there, now filled with distinction by his younger brother.

FRANCE has a population of 38,095,150, Great Britain has 37,740,286. But at the beginning of the present century France had 27,000,000; Great Britain then had 16,000,000. France is falling behind in the race. In Germany the population increases at the rate of over half a million a year; in France not a quarter of a million in the past five years.

OF all the pilgrims leaving Bombay for Mecca and Medina more than a third never return. Out of 64,638 pilgrims who left in the six years ending 1890, 22,449 were missing. In 1888, of 13,970 who started 7,465 did not return. The vast proportion of those missing owe their deaths to epidemics, starvation, and, it is said, murder between Jeddah and Mecca, robbery inciting the murderers to their evil deeds.

THE worshippers at Westminster Abbey, passing by Livingstone's tomb, had their attention arrested by a small wreath lying on the slab. The wreath was composed of an African grass and a small white flower resembling an immortelle, to which was attached a card bearing these words, "From the place which he loved and for which he died." The handwriting is that of a lady.

THE Pope, it is said, has accumulated an immense private fortune, and the funds of the Church at his command are still enormous, as may be judged from the facts that the Pontiff has so far refused to take the annual income of 3,200,000f. voted by the Italian Parliament to the Church, and that there has been no diminution in the state and ceremony with which the Pontifical Court is maintained. The annual income of the Vatican is estimated at over 13,000,000f.

THE exhibition of the Holy Coat at Treves is turning out a sad disappointment to many of the speculative inhabitants, who looked forward to the devotion of the coming pilgrims as a choice and fruitful means for making gain out of godliness. The number of pilgrims has not reached such colossal proportions as was expected; but the worst of it is that most of the pilgrims are poor and bring their victuals with them, to the unspeakable chagrin of their would-be hosts.

THE Ministerial Fellowship Meeting of ministers of the English Presbyterian Church, to be held at Southport, from Monday to Wednesday, 21st—23rd September, will be of a private character, but it is interesting to learn something of the subjects that will occupy the attention of those who assemble. The leading subject will be the "Power of the Holy Spirit," viewed in its various aspects and relations.

The chair will be occupied at successive meetings by Dr. Gibson, Rev. John Thompson, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Lundie, and Rev. Benjamin Bell. It is hoped that it will be a time of refreshing, and that great blessing will follow the meeting.

IN developing his social scheme General Booth proposes soon to open in East London a Home for Destitute Youths, and before winter it is hoped that the salvage work will be in full swing. For the purpose of this work large wharf premises have been acquired at Chelsea, and are now being adapted to the uses which they are intended to serve. About 200 men are already employed on the Farm Colony in Essex, and more will be sent there as accommodation is provided. By this time next year the General expects to have 2,000 people engaged on the farm in a variety of industrial ways, and qualifying for positions in the colony across the sea.

THE third provincial convention of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour will meet in Peterboro' from October 21st to 23rd. Many notable speakers will be present, including such prominent workers as J. W. Baer, general secretary of the united societies; Rev. Dr. Wells, one of the most eloquent orators in Canada, pastor of one of the largest Methodist Churches in Montreal; Rev. James Kines, of Kingston; Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, of Galt, well known in Western Canada; Rev. William Patterson, of Toronto, the eloquent pastor of Cooke's Church; H. W. Frost, of the China Inland Mission, and many others. The billeting committee are now very actively engaged in providing places for the delegates and have met with very gratifying success. It is expected that there will be five hundred delegates in attendance.

THE English Presbyteries are discussing the overture recommending dealing with inefficient ministers. The Presbytery of Carlisle agreed to disapprove of the overture of the Presbytery of London South, on ministerial efficiency, together with those clauses in the Committee's report which recommend Presbyteries to dissolve the pastoral tie in cases of imprudence, inefficiency, or unsuitability, and to consider if any financial allowance should be made. It was felt that the position of the ministry would be rendered insupportable if such drastic recommendations became the law of the Church. It was further agreed: That while the Presbytery had disapproved of the overture on Ministerial efficiency and of clauses six and seven of the Committee's report, they are of opinion that the solution of the difficulties referred to lies rather in the direction of an alteration in the tenure of the pastorate.

IN a paper at the British association Dr. Strahan defines the class of instinctive criminals as being composed "solely of individuals who take to anti-social ways by instinct or nature, and who murder, and steal, and lie, and cheat, not because they are driven to do so by force of adverse circumstances, but because they are drawn to such a course by an instinct which is born in them, and which is too strong to be resisted by their weak volitional power had they the desire to resist, which they have not. To this class belong fully two-thirds of our whole criminal population, including offenders of all grades, from the murderer down to the petty thief. To this class also belongs a still larger proportion of prostitutes and habitual drunkards, who, although not criminals in the eye of the law, are anti-social in their instincts." Dr. Strahan says further: "The records of crime daily brought before our Courts prove conclusively that the pains and penalties inflicted under the present system have no effect whatever, curative or deterrent, upon the instinctive criminal and the habitual drunkard."

A FELLOW passenger on the steamer with the late Rev. Narayan Sheshadri writes: When I came on board the *Circassia*, the first man I saw was my dear old friend, Dr. Sheshadri; he seemed pretty well, but evidently much fatigued with the long

journeys and arduous labours in the cause of the Master's work in India. After a short conversation expressive of our mutual pleasure in once more meeting each other, he retired to his state-room to rest a while. He came to the dining-saloon on Sabbath, partook slightly of the meal, but retired very early evidently unwell; he did not come out of his room on Monday. I supposed that it was simply the reaction after much labour, and that he would soon be amongst us with his old fire and energy. On Tuesday morning about nine o'clock I visited him in his state-room; he was complaining of indigestion and pain and swelling of the abdomen. I conversed a few minutes with him and went on deck. In about twenty minutes the steward called me down, as the doctor had just died, and his son was overwhelmed with grief and needed comfort and consolation. In a moment, without any evident premonition, he was sent for by the Master whom he had so long and earnestly served.

THE Philadelphia *Presbyterian* in its last issue says: Ministers are told that their sermons must be interesting, but what about the people to whom they preach? Have they no responsibility in the matter of listening? It makes but little difference how interesting a discourse is in itself, if one gives it no attention. Interest lies as much in the hearer as in the preacher. We have felt the greatest enjoyment and profit in sermons which others regard as dry; and largely because we listened to the preacher from the start and followed him to the close, and hence saw the force of his points, the beauty of his diction, the aptness of his illustrations and the appropriateness of his applications, while his fault-finders were taking the measure of their neighbours, or, like the fool, permitted their thoughts to roam over creation. Give, then, your pastor a chance to interest you by attending to what he says. Cultivate the hearing taste and habit. Prepare yourself beforehand by prayerful, devout meditation. Don't rush into the house of God from the perusal of the Sunday newspaper, or from discussing the latest gossip of the neighbourhood, or from the hurry and annoyance of hasty dressing, or under the pleasure and satisfaction awakened by a new piece of wardrobe, or from the excitement and worry of household care. Come with composed mind and heart and as a worshipper of God, and with a desire to hear reverently the Lord speak through his servant, and it will make the greatest difference in the character of your hearing and quicken greatly your relish and appreciation of his servant's ministration.

THE Rev. J. Lyall, one of the deputation of the Australian Church to the New Hebrides Mission, at the Federal Assembly meeting said that he had visited all the mission stations except Nguna. He would never forget the beautiful sights of nature. Tauna, Aneityum, Topevi, Aoba, Pentecost, etc., had each its peculiar beauties and charms. There was a vast contrast between the beauty of nature and the state of the heathen. Polygamy and cannibalism, and other evils were still there. Bad white men had undoubtedly aggravated the evil of the blacks. He had seen some on whom the light had begun to shine. Never would he forget the sight of 600 natives of Tongoa, gathered together to praise Christ Jesus, clothed and in their right mind. At Erakor he was reminded of the solemnity of the religious services of the fatherland. The Synod Sabbath at Aneityum was most impressive, and he had most happy intercourse with the missionaries. They have courageous hearts and have witnessed marvellous triumphs. The services which their wives have rendered are simply invaluable. The population is declining. There are now only about 70,000 natives. He congratulated Queensland on the termination of the labour traffic. In the discussion that followed, it transpired that the French have obtained possession of much of the best land, and of the best harbours. There are 250 French people on Fate, and they have built a hospital. A great bar to the interests of British traders is the traffic in muskets and intoxicating liquors. The Americans are the obstacle to the abolition of this injurious traffic, while the French are willing.