

American lines that forces them to invade the sacredness of the day of rest. They claim moreover that they exercise great self-denial in refraining from running local excursion trains on Sabbath. That, however, is but a lame justification of the encroachments already made. Let but the present limited Sunday trains continue for a short time and it needs no prophetic gift to foretell that the tendency will be in the direction of much greater latitude than now exists. It does seem strange that, while on the American roads efforts are being successfully made to stop Sunday traffic, the Grand Trunk should be making a new departure in an opposite direction, and pleading in excuse the necessity that competition occasions. In the long run the corporation that respects the laws of the Maker of this universe will gain and not lose by acting in obedience to the higher law. They were no prejudiced bigots who said "whether it be right in the sight of God to harken unto you more than unto God, judge ye."

Post-office officials, names also not given, appear next as authorities on the proper observance of the Sabbath. They also are of opinion that, because the recent change involves but very little Sunday labour, therefore it is all right. It is always by little that the people's rights are encroached upon. Whatever plausibility might at one time be urged in behalf of Sunday labour in the post-office is largely removed by modern appliances. The telegraph and the telephone during the six days of the week effectually dispose of most matters that require despatch. One of the post office authorities is endowed with the gift of brilliant retort, making the rejoinder that many clergymen throughout Ontario actually drive to fulfil their appointments and employ cooks to provide their food while they could reasonably well live on cold victuals for the day; therefore, Sabbath labour in the post office is the correct thing: or, granting that all the pastors who have distant appointments to fill have backs for the occasion, and fare sumptuously on that day, two blacks make a white.

Professor Goldwin Smith favours the preservation of the day of rest, but possessing refined and cultured tastes, he would not object to the opening of museums and picture galleries on Sabbath. This he thinks would be better for the working classes than going down the river to some low place of amusement on the Sabbath.

The practice followed by the Member for West Toronto seems to be better than his theories. Here, however, we have to remember the necessary limitations of the interview. It is difficult to understand that the views he holds are adequately given. He is represented as saying that "the question to my mind resolves itself into two points: first the Divine law; second, the civil. There is no Divine law to keep any Sabbath day; it was a Jewish institution," etc. Every reader of the Bible knows that the institution of the Sabbath preceded the rise of the Jewish nation. If it is a Jewish institution why does the divine command for its observance find a place in the moral code that claims universal obedience? If the Divine Lawgiver intended the abrogation of a part of the moral law, is it conceivable that it would not have been as explicitly repealed as it was at first enjoined? The learned gentleman, like the post-office authority, could not resist the temptation of being genially facetious at the expense of the parsons. The report represents him as saying: "If it is a question of labour for the earning of a living, then pulpit ministrations must be closed up on Sundays, for it is chiefly on that account that pastors obtain their stipend." But the honourable member's practical views are much more satisfactory than his theoretical crotchets. He has a very high respect, as is natural, for civil laws and he advocates a rigid enforcement of existing Sabbath legislation.

The opinions of Senator O'Donohue and Mr. Patrick Hughes neutralize each other, the former favours laxity, while the latter expresses himself in a manner that evangelical Christians of every denomination would endorse.

The time is rapidly approaching when the friends of a quiet restful Sabbath devoted to the worship of God and the highest interests of humanity, must be alert if they would retain it for themselves and their country whose true welfare they seek to promote.

He who does his best, however little, is always to be distinguished from him who does nothing.

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

**CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL** (Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.)—The present is a double number for the months of July and August. This serial published in the interest of the teaching profession will be interesting and useful to all engaged in the work of instruction, and to all who watch the progress of education. Theory and practice receive ample consideration in its pages. Subjects relating to all departments are from time to time discussed in well written and pointed editorials; selections bearing on methods of instruction, and educational news interesting to the profession, are always to be found in the "Canada School Journal."

**REPORT ON THE NECESSITY OF PRESERVING AND REPLANTING FORESTS** By R. W. Phipps. (Toronto: Printed by C. Blackett Robinson.) This is what is technically called a blue book, compiled at the instance of the Government of Ontario. It is on a subject that at first sight might fail to awaken the interest of the general reader. To form the impression on a hasty glance that this work was dry and uninteresting would be a great mistake. Mr. Phipps as a writer is a master of the art of "putting things." Whatever engages his attention rouses his enthusiasm and he writes on every subject, that appears to him of sufficient importance, with fervour, elegance and clearness. Unlike blue books in general this possesses literary excellences of no ordinary kind. The subject itself is one of great practical importance in the present condition of the country. It ought to merit much attention. Mr. Phipps presents no crude and ill considered views on Forestry. He has devoted much time and patient research to the study of the subject. The results are condensed and set before the reader in short compass and in most attractive form. A large amount of much valuable information can be derived from its perusal. The work contains two maps, one showing the Heights of land in Ontario, and the other the proportion of forest yet standing throughout Ontario. The publication is timely, and, if it lead to practical results, it will have a marked influence on the future of the Dominion.

**THE HOMILETIC MAGAZINE.** (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)—This excellent magazine maintains its high standard. The number for the present month is unsurpassed by any that has preceded it. The sermon in full, under the head of the "Modern Pulpit," is by the Bishop of Liverpool, and in several respects is a model discourse. The subject is "The Breath of Praise." In Practical Homiletics there are outline sermons on "Toil" by Rev. J. Edgar Henry, M.A.; "Faith and its Heroes (Noah)," by Rev. J. Telford, B.A.; "The Enquiry of Humanity after God," by Rev. D. O. Jones; "The Great Race," by Rev. H. Richard Harris; "The Young Ruler," by Rev. Canon Clayton, M.A.; "Forgiveness and Healing," by Rev. W. Smith; and "The Work of Christ and of His Disciples," by Rev. Uriah K. Thomas. The Obscure Scripture Character sketched by the editor, the Rev. Frederic Hastings, is "Adoni-bezek; or, Righteous Retribution." In his own masterly style Principal Cairns, D.D., contributes to the Symposium an article on the question "In what sense and within what limits is the Bible to be regarded as the Word of God?" J. Robinson Gregory discusses "The Argument from Prophecy in the lights of Modern Criticism," and Rev. William Roberts continues the debate on "The Revelations of Himself by God to Man." The Expository Section is also attractive. Rev. W. B. Pope, D.D., writes on "The Imitation of Paul;" Rev. Alexander B. Grosart, D.D., "Studies on the Life and Life-Work of John the Baptist;" Rev. Chr. E. Luthardt, D.D., "Consolation in Christ;" and Rev. Carl Keogh, D.D., "Christ at Jacob's Well." The Miscellaneous Section contains a variety of interesting articles. "The Homiletic Magazine" for July is altogether a superior number.

**SERMONS AND ADDRESSES.** Delivered at Jubilee of Erskine Church, Montreal. (Montreal: Printed by D. Bentley & Co.)—This brief memorial of the Jubilee services held in Erskine Church, Montreal, in April last possesses peculiar interest. It is a valuable contribution to the history of Presbyterianism in Canada. Those in a measure acquainted with the events and incidents recalled in these pages cannot rise from its perusal without deep thankfulness for the testimony consistently borne for the last fifty years to the

cause of evangelical religion by this Christian congregation. To younger people it will unfold how from small beginnings the congregation of Erskine Church grew in outward prosperity and spiritual work and influence till it has reached its present dimensions. The contrast between the early days of Erskine Church and what it has since become is presented to the eye in the engravings of the orthodox secession meeting-house on La Gauchetière street and the handsome gothic structure that is still one of the architectural features of St. Catharine street. Nor has there been less satisfactory progress in the nobler walks of Christian endeavour. Contributions for religious and benevolent purposes have shown a steady and gratifying increase until they have attained their present generous proportions. One mode of expressing thankfulness to the Great Head of the Church for the blessings bestowed during the last fifty years was the raising of a jubilee fund of over \$5,000, which was appropriated as follows:

Home Mission Work in North-West.....	\$1,000
General Home Mission Fund.....	1,500
Foreign Mission Fund.....	1,000
French Evangelization.....	500
St. Mark's Church, Montreal.....	572
Taylor Church, Montreal.....	604
Balance to Home Mission work in the city.....	

The pamphlet contains an Historical Discourse by the Rev. J. S. Black, minister of Erskine Church, from the text, "The Lord hath been mindful of us," in which the leading events in the congregation's history are referred to. The sermon preached by the venerable Dr. Wilkes, an almost life long associate of the late Dr. Taylor in every good work, is next given. It contains many pleasant reminiscences of the cordial friendship that subsisted between these noble servants in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The last contribution to this memorable Sabbath service was made by the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, who preached in the evening a thoughtful and practical sermon appropriate to the occasion. Not the least interesting part of this memorial pamphlet is a letter from the Rev. J. M. Gibson, D.D., of St. John's Wood, London, whose first charge in a most useful ministry was Erskine Church, the duties of whose pastorate he efficiently discharged from 1864 till the time of his removal to Chicago in 1874. Dr. Gibson's letter is characteristic. It is brief but comprehensive and affectionate in tone. At a subsequent meeting very interesting addresses were delivered by Messrs. James Williamson, David Brown, James Roy, Warden King and Andrew Robertson. These addresses evince an excellent spirit. They contain no boastful display, no fulsome self-glorification, but are pervaded by a vein of devout thankfulness, tender recollection, hopeful anticipation and earnest resolve to work more devoutly than ever for the advancement of the Master's kingdom. The congregation of Erskine Church, Montreal, have done well in perpetuating the record of a red letter day in their history in this interesting but unpretending pamphlet.

### TO THE WEAK PRESBYTERIAN.

MR. EDITOR.—Glancing at a recent number of the "Canada Baptist" the writer was considerably amused at an account given of the supposed conversion (perversion) of a Presbyterian to the immersion doctrine. What tickled his fancy was the desire of the story teller to emphasize the assurance that no attempt at proselytism had been resorted to to point out the error of his ways—on the contrary the inference drawn was that the desire was apparently not overstrong to have him at any price.

Now, in the light of the fact that our friends the Baptists are proverbial for the eager hunt after converts, and are just a little given to poaching, what other purpose could the author of the tale have but to entrap unwary hearers who happened to read the "Baptist?"

His supposed experience must be well known to his present church without proclaiming it from the house tops so that there is no other object to be gained in rushing into print, but the furtherance of the very proselytism he is supposed to disdain. What necessity to tell the anecdote if Baptists only read the "Baptist?"

J. B. H.  
Ottawa, 16 July, 1883.

THE revival in Adana is continuing. Tarsus has begun to wake up, and now word comes from Hajin, in the Taurus mountains, that an earnest religious interest has shown itself among the girls of Mrs. Coffin's school, and has extended to the townsfolk among whom a most interesting revival is in progress.