

On Questions of the Day.

(Continued from page 1.)

connected with civil and social life, is in the hands of teachers and pupils. Surely a book can be had and prescribed such as will meet the approval of all classes, and be of great service in inducing that habit of moral thoughtfulness to which Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, rightly attached so much importance. A basis for the morality inculcated in such a book, which should, of course, avoid dogmatism on doubtful or difficult questions, could be found in the individual conscience on the one hand, and in such axiomatic principles as the Golden Rule on the other. As such teaching should be entirely practical, aiming solely at the development of judgment and conscience, no troublesome questions of the origin and nature of the moral faculty need be raised, at least in the elementary schools. The fact of the existence of this faculty with large capacity for culture is all that is needed. But, further, assuming that the teacher in a given school is a man or woman of high religious character, and profoundly convinced that to be forbidden to appeal to religious motives of a direct and positive kind is to be deprived of incomparably the best means of cultivating the moral nature and forming high character in the pupils, and assuming that the patrons of the school are all of the same way of thinking, should such teacher be prohibited from doing his best work in his own way? In a word, could not and should not the question of religious exercises and teaching in the schools be left entirely to local option, with ample provisions for guarding the rights of conscience in the case of individuals? If so, the way is open for religious training in the schools, of the only kind which can ever be made effective; that is, as imparted by teachers who are themselves intelligently and sincerely devout. To whatever exception our remarks on this very difficult topic may be open in other respects, we affirm with confidence two conclusions of no trifling importance: First, whatever system may ultimately prevail, immediate provision should be made, at the sacrifice, if necessary, of some other less important subjects on the programme, for clear, systematic, and positive moral training in the schools. Second, whatever changes in school laws and regulations may or may not be desirable, the only means by which the most effective training, moral and religious, can be secured is already in the hands of parents and trustees, in their power to secure, at whatever cost, in the teachers of their choice, those intellectual, moral and religious qualities with which, under any conditions, and without which under no conditions, can such moral and religious training be secured. Under any circumstances, the moral and religious character of the schools will be determined by the teachers, and so by the trustees who select the teachers, and so by the parents who elect the trustees.—The Week.

Married.

BUTCHART-HOUSE.—At New Sarun, on July 9, by Rev. J. H. Sowerby, Thomas R. Butchart of Fingal, to Eugene House of New Sarun.

How many are they? If you were to distribute bibles to the women of India at the rate of one thousand per hour, and work ten hours per day all the year round, it would take you thirty-five years to finish your work. Figure it out.—Oriental Evangelist.

Church News.

DOWNMANVILLE.—One addition here since last report. F. W. B. OWEN SOUND.—Word from Bro. A. McMillan states that he is to be in Owen Sound for the remainder of the summer. MIMOSA.—The work of enlarging and "bricking" and generally putting the Mimosa meeting house in good order is going on. PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.—Our work is keeping up steadily. Last week, four—two young men and two young women—were baptized into Christ here. A. H. FINCH. MUSKOKA.—Brothers Gray, Stewart, and Stephens are all hard at work, and enjoying themselves in Muskoka. We hear they have been holding special services, but we are unable to give particulars. Rev. G. I. Wharton was with us at St. Thomas, last Lord's Day, and preached two discourses, on the Mission Work in the Apostolic Church, and the Power and Darkness of Idolatry. It were well if all our churches could hear these discourses along the line of mission FAITH and DOING. The disciples are far from the requirement of the, "Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse" yet. We have not "proved the Lord now herewith," as He has asked, nor looked for the fulness of the blessing promised. "If I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." We need larger faith and larger paying to the Lord, that we are. We are just beginning to understand and feel the meaning of the first part of the commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation." How richly has God blessed our work of heathen missions, began with trembling, even beyond our expectations, and considering the money and effort expended, the results have surpassed those of any other people. T. B. K. ERIN CENTRE.—The special services at this place closed with seventeen additions to the Church. During the four weeks the meetings were in progress every night, save one, was fine. Rather remarkable for this country, was it not? The way in which a goodly number of the brethren and sisters attended the meetings, notwithstanding the busy season and the hot weather, was very encouraging to the preacher. As the saying goes, we have a good "hearing" at Erin Centre, and it is hoped that the reaping is not

over though the protracted meeting has come to an end. G. M.

COLLINGWOOD ITEMS.—The Baptists of the Northern Association met here on the 24th and 25th of June. We attended the different sessions, and were cordially welcomed by the Association. By request, gave an address on "Sunday School work." Their reports showed a total gain in membership during the past year of thirty-three. An address—full of interest—upon "Foreign Mission work," was delivered by Bro. McLaurin, who had been a missionary in India for many years. The address was calculated to arouse the sympathy of the Christian in favor of the mission field, as it portrayed in a vivid manner the deplorable condition of the heathen, and the great privations of the missionary. Some attention was given to the "Union" question. May God speed the day when we shall all be of "one mind." Old and young had a most pleasurable day at our annual Sunday school picnic on the 8th inst. The day was all that could be desired. Held in the Georgian Bay Park, the most delightful resort known to us, which is almost upon a level with the bay, you have the full benefit of its cooling breezes. Its numerous cedar groves perfectly impervious to the rays of the sun, with their stationary seats and tables, make it a place capable of real enjoyment. Add to this its many swings and "Imperial Railroad" for the comfort of young folks, and you have about all that one could reasonably desire in order to a day's enjoyment. Combined with all the other pleasing features of the day, the generous proprietor of the park, Mr. Calary, donated the park fee, \$5, for the benefit of the school. Business matters brought Bro. E. Kilgour, of Guelph, to our town, and finding his way to the prayer meeting he delighted us all with a short address upon our union with "Christ, the Head of the body." This is as it should be: "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." Call as often as possible, Bro. Kilgour, on Wednesday evenings. Bro. Alex. J. McMillan, of Toronto Junction, spent a Lord's Day with the brethren at Staynor, preaching morning and evening—as we hear—with much acceptance. "Old time" friendship brought him to Collingwood the following Monday. Such visits are refreshing. The Lord bless our young men engaged in the Master's work. A lady from Peterborough, visiting our town, confessed faith in the Saviour, and was baptized on the evening of the 2nd. May God bless her in future life. C. SINCLAIR.

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