

OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

The Chief Superintendent's Report for 1852, has just been published. The following items we copy from the *Christian Advocate* :—

We find the statistical tables amply set forth in the Report before us, that during the year ending December, 1852, there were 3,317 School Sections in operation. The number of Schools in operation was 3,010, being 9 more than was reported the year previous. The whole number of children between the age of 5 and 16 reported in 1852, was 262,755, being 2,333 more than was reported for 1851. After allowing for the number of children attending private and other schools, it appears that more than 60,000 children in Upper Canada were not attending any school in 1852. The average position of the year during which the schools were kept open was ten months and 21 days. The total amount expended for Common School purposes during the year was £138,015 11s 8d.

The whole number of Teachers employed during the year, was 3,488—being 111 more than in 1851. Of this number, 2,541 were males and 847 females. The religious faith of the Teachers is given as follows: Methodist, 921; Presbyterian, 902; Church of England, 733; Roman Catholics, 380; Baptist, 200; Congregationalist, 69; Quakers, 45; and all other forms of faith, 138. According to the returns there were 435 first class teachers; 1,444, second class; and 1,460, third class. The average annual salaries of male teachers, without board, £83 6s; and £62 17s with board; and of female teachers, without board, £52 12s; and £32 1s with board. Although these rates show a little increase on the year preceding, there is still great room for improvement.

It is gratifying to notice that the Free School System is rapidly gaining in popular favor. The number of the Free Schools reported is 901, being an increase of 46 during the year; in addition to which, 429 are reported as partly free—making in all 1,330 that are supported in part or altogether, by a self-imposed tax upon property. The remaining 1680 schools were supported by Provincial and Municipal Grants, and by rate-bill.

Another pleasing fact we observe, is, that the Bible and Testament are read in 1,690 schools; being an increase during the year of 142 schools in which the sacred writing are read. We hope there will be a still greater increase in the number of these schools another year, and sincerely do we trust that the day is not far distant, when the Holy Scriptures will be read in every common school in the Province.

UNION—MEETING AT WHITBY.

At a meeting of Members of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, held this day, at Mr. William Matthewson's—after engaging in devotional exercises, Mr. William Daw was unanimously called to the chair, and Mr. John Ratcliff having been requested to act as Secretary—the following Resolutions were submitted and unanimously adopted:—

1st. Moved by John Ratcliff, seconded by William Heron, and

Resolved—That a Union between the United and Free Presbyterian Churches is not only highly desirable, but a duty, which these Churches owe to the cause of Christ, and the moral and religious interests of this country.

2nd. Moved by Robert Gardiner, seconded by William Agur, and

Resolved—That we firmly believe it to be the duty of the ministers and members of these denominations to consider, and we hereby call on them prayerfully to consider how much truth they hold in common; how many of their differences are misconceptions, and do not involve

principles, and whether such differences can warrantably constitute terms of communion.

3rd. Moved by John Hepburn, seconded by William Matthewson, and

Resolved—That, to comply with the requirements of Christ, in regard to the unity of his people, and the general spirit of apostolic injunction, and with a view to meet the necessities of the thinly scattered Presbyterian population, where are often now two churches, where there is only support for one, and to avoid that spirit of rivalry which is sure to be engendered thereby; and also that we may present a more united front to the mass of ungodliness, infidelity, and popery, that surrounds us, we pledge ourselves to do our utmost to promote the above contemplated union, in the hope that more influential parties will take up the matter, and push it to a happy consummation.

4th. Moved by James Burns, seconded by Thomas Thornton, and

Resolved—That the above Resolutions be sent for publication, to the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record*, the *Canadian Presbyterian*, and *Canadian United Presbyterian Magazines*, in order that the subject may be brought before the people of the United and Free Presbyterian Churches, with the hope that other branches of the Church of Christ may be stimulated to join with us in this effort for union.

The following Committee (being equally taken from both churches,) were then appointed to put the spirit of the foregoing Resolutions, viz:—William Heron, William Matthewson, Robt. Gardiner, James Burns, Alexander Dalziel, Robert Ratcliff, John Heron, John Ratcliff, John Hepburn, and Hugh Fraser. William Heron, Convener; John Ratcliff, Corresponding Secretary.

The Chairman then concluded the meeting by committing in prayer the cause to Him who ruleth among the nations, and turneth the hearts of the children of men.

Thus appropriately terminated this most brotherly meeting, which, considering the opportunity for intimation, was numerously attended. Throughout the entire interview, not a jarring word was heard, but one feeling seemed to animate those present, as if there were but one heart in the whole assembly, and that heart warmed with love for the Redeemer's cause, and zeal for the honor of his name. As each Resolution was put from the chair, every individual present testified his approbation, and love and harmony characterised the whole proceedings. We trust that many others in different parts of the country will meet and compare their views, and that glory to God in the highest, and peace and good will to men will be the result.

WILLIAM DOW, Chairman.

JOHN RATCLIFF, Secretary.

WHITBY, 18th April, 1854.

NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

JAY'S FEMALE SCRIPTURE CHARACTERS. New York: R. Carter & Brothers. For sale by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

This is the last production of the late venerable Mr. Jay of Bath, so long known, and so highly esteemed throughout the Christian Church. It is like Mr. Jay's other productions, full of interest and instruction. The sketches of female characters are drawn with admirable skill and beauty, and exhibit all the peculiar characteristics, which have rendered Mr. Jay's writings so highly esteemed. We heartily recommend this volume to all our readers, and especially to all Christian females.

THE ETERNAL DAY. By H. Bonar, D. D. New York: R. Carter & Brothers. For sale by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

This book, like all Dr. Bonar's works, is well calculated to promote the spiritual strength and joy of those who feel themselves but strangers here, and are looking forward to another and better state, even to a state of eternal joy and blessedness in the presence of the Lord. Many, we doubt not, will read it with interest and delight, and draw from it precious consolation. It is an admirable sequel to the "Night of Weeping," and the "Morning of Joy," by the same author.

DISCOURSES AND SAYINGS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: Illustrated in a series of expositions. By John Brown, D. D. New York: R. Carter & Brothers. For sale by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

We heartily welcome this handsome edition of a work so valuable and useful. Dr. Brown takes up in order the various discourses and sayings of Him who spake as never man spake, and makes them the subject of exposition and comment. There is a fulness and grasp in the treatment of these interesting portions of scripture, which is alike most satisfactory to the Biblical student, and at the same time admirably calculated to instruct and edify the more general reader. Without depreciating the commentaries in general use, we would say that, in several respects, these volumes will be found even more valuable, in enabling readers of the bible to understand the portions of sacred history embraced by them. We recommend the work to ministers and students of the Bible in general.

CECIL'S REMAINS. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.

Cecil has always been a favorite author with us. We admire his high-toned piety, his fidelity, his devotedness, and the deep knowledge of human nature, which his writings indicate. This volume of his "Remains" is a very precious one, and a very useful and convenient one. It can be taken up at any time, and the valuable thoughts with which it is fraught, may supply matter for solemn and useful reflection. It will repay a perusal, and indeed may be read with profit again and again.

THE FAITHFUL MOTHER'S REWARD. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.

This is a little work which we noticed some time ago, and of which a second edition has now been called for. It is worthy of being read by all Christian mothers, whose hearts are exercised in regard to their children. To such it may afford both direction and encouragement in their efforts to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIAN. Belfast: Jas. Reed.

We regard this as a very valuable periodical. It is rising every month in talent and power, and is enriched by contributions from the pens of some of the ablest men in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland—among these we may mention the name of Dr. R. Wilson, author of one of the ablest and fullest treatises on Infant Baptism ever published.