

### What Does It Matter?

It matters little where I was born,

Or if my parents were rich or poor;  
Whether they shrank from the cold  
world's scorn,

Or walked in the pride of wealth secure;  
But whether I live an honest man,  
And hold my integrity firm in my  
clutch,

I tell you, my brother, as plain as I can,  
It matters much!

It matters little how long I stay

In a world of sorrow, sin and care;  
Whether in youth I am called away,  
Or live till my bones and pate are bare;  
But whether I do the best I can,

To soften the weight of adversity's  
touch,

On the faded cheek of my fellow man,  
It matters much!

It matters little where be my grave,

Or on the land or on the sea,  
By purling brook or 'neath stormy wave,  
It matters little or naught to me;  
But whether the Angel of Death comes  
down

And among my brow with his loving  
touch,

As one that shall wear the victor's crown,  
It matters much!

—From the Swedish.

### Methodist Magazine and Review for January.

The Methodist Magazine and Review for January begins its fifty-first volume with a noteworthy number. The initial paper of Sir John Bourinot, one of a series on the "Progress of Canada During the Queen's Reign," by that distinguished writer, strikes a philosophic and patriotic note. This series will be of great interest and importance. It is beautifully illustrated, many of the prints being very rare. Dr. Blackstock has also a very handsomely illustrated article on "Picturesque Spain," and Dr. Maclean one on "Wallace Wight, the Hero of Scottish History," with several half-tone pictures. "The Progress of Canadian Methodism During the Century," by the Editor, has several excellent portraits and other illustrations. Dr. Lathern, of Halifax, writes vigorously on "Cronwell

and his New Statute," a cut of which is given. Dr. Ross, of Guelph, in his "Side Lights on Methodism," sketches the romantic career of the Rev. William Savage, in stirring times in the Old Land. Dr. Rose writes gracefully on the "Wit and Wisdom of George Eliot," and Chancellor Burwash on "The University and the Nation." The new serial story, "Your Little Brother James," strikes a fine note of blended humour and pathos. A vivid sketch and portrait are given of Cecil Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia, now impounded at Kimberley. The progress of the war is vividly presented, with map and numerous excellent half-tone cuts. Now is the time to subscribe for this oldest Canadian monthly. November and December numbers given free. One of our ministers, the Rev. W. Savage, orders fourteen copies for his friends. Some schools have taken from ten to forty copies for circulation. Try it. It is better, fresher, and cheaper than books.

Toronto: William Briggs. Montreal: C. W. Coates. Halifax: S. F. Huestis. \$2.00 a year; \$1.00 for six months.

### A Systematic Plan.

BY SALLY CAMPBELL.

We had a big missionary rally in our town a month ago. Somebody came to me yesterday to help fill out an account of the afternoon programme. Very promptly I reminded her of two items to which I had listened with wonder and envy. One of the speakers had reported a boys' society of ten members with an average attendance of ten! A later speaker, referring to this, said that she could do even better, for her society of girls had a membership of forty-six and an average attendance of forty-six!

What figures these are when we remember our Sunday-school classes! There are plenty of hard questions for Sunday-school workers to answer: How are we to learn the best lessons each week? How shall we persuade our scholars to learn for themselves? How may we bring them to be taught of God? But of necessity the first problem is to get the scholars to the school week by week. No matter how carefully and prayerfully we are prepared, we plainly cannot teach a boy anything who is two