

## The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21  
18, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be  
addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2664, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 16 cents per line  
per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line;  
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Toronto, November 7, 1895.

### Work Among the Young.

THE season is in full swing when the various organizations concerning the young are pursuing their good work. Meetings are being held all over the country in the church halls and the reports which appear in the press indicate a state of things, on the surface at least, which must be considered as most satisfactory. And there is no reason to suppose that it is mere surface work. The Young People's Societies perform a noble and an earnest work which the Church and the general public has recognized. Yet the very nature of the work renders it important that all those engaged in it should be reminded of their solemn responsibilities. To win the young of our fair land to Christ is worthy of the highest and best efforts of our ablest men. To keep them true to Presbyterianism is also a sacred duty. The system of church government and organization which we cherish and believe in, is the one we ought to perpetuate and popularize and the young people in banding themselves together make it comparatively easy matter for ministers and elders to instil into their minds a knowledge of the framework and history of the church to which they belong.

The Committee appointed by the General Assembly, in connection with the Young People's Societies has had a meeting at which ways and means were considered. A report of the proceedings has not reached us, but it may be taken for granted, from the apt personnel of the Committee that whatever, love for the arduous work entailed upon it can suggest or do will be thought out and accomplished. There is a feeling, and a growing one, that societies in cities and counties should have some connection such as a federation, which would conduce to co-operation in the aims and objects which are common to all the societies. It is hoped the idea will be encouraged and will assume definite form on a scale not yet attained. It would be a grand thing if all the societies of young people connected with the church would unite on an object to which their collections for the current year should be devoted, such for instance as the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund, French Evangelization, the mission work in the North West, or the cause of Foreign Missions! We firmly believe that such a departure on the present practice would be the beginning of a great awakening among the young which would be fruitful of many good results.

### Sabbath Schools.

The indefatigable Convener of the Sabbath School Committee has sent us a communication concerning Sabbath School work, which is too long for publication in its entirety. The facts brought to notice are valuable and ought to be considered cordially and carefully by

the ministers and teachers into whose hands they are likely to come. It is requested that the collection made on "Children's Day" be forwarded as soon as possible. Some space is then devoted to an argument showing why the General Assembly should control the literature that is placed in the hands of the teachers and scholars; and the belief is expressed that as good literature can be produced in Canada as elsewhere and that it can be produced at a fair profit. Canadian schools it is held should use Canadian publications, and Mr. Fotheringham certainly is able to adduce sound reasons for his contention. After treating of the financial aspect of the question the Convener says:

"We appeal to our Sabbath Schools by their loyalty to the General Assembly. The Committee has not been working in the dark. Every step it has taken has been discussed sometimes with much earnestness, in the General Assembly. We have received no mere odious assent to our recommendations. So that when the following was unanimously carried at the last meeting, in London, it must be received with all the weight which the Supreme Court of our Church can give it."

There is much to be said for Mr. Fotheringham's appeal. If the subject be closely examined the balance of argument is in his favor without the shadow of a doubt. Why go abroad if as suitable from every standpoint can be provided under the authority and safeguard of the General Assembly of Canada? That the Canadian productions are equal in merit to those of other countries is Mr. Fotheringham's claim. If it be good, be ought to be loyally supported, for it is the home custom that will enable the Committee to improve their stock.

### The Religious Newspaper.

The term religious, applied to a newspaper, does not mean that the newspaper shall not contain anything secular any more than the term secular would indicate that the secular newspaper shall not have in its columns anything religious, says the *Presbyterian Messenger*. Every first-class secular newspaper gives the fullest possible information on religious subjects, and every first-class religious newspaper gives the best possible information on secular questions. The dividing line between the sacred and the secular is, in some respects, only an imaginary line, since every sacred event has a secular side and every secular event has a sacred side. A religious newspaper is a newspaper devoted especially to the advancement of the Christian religion, making everything else secondary and subservient to this great end. It does not give to its readers a mere record of passing events; it is an interpreter of events, a teacher of morals, an educator in every department of real knowledge; the advocate and helper of true religion in the home, in the Church and in the State; the definite and irreconcilable enemy of everything that is irreligious. It studies the motive powers that lie back of great events, ever seeking to help men to the attainment of purer and nobler aims by the use of wiser and better methods. It is a teacher of morals and religion, a moulder of public opinion, a herald of gospel truth.

The ideal religious newspaper gives to its readers a brief but comprehensive record of great events in the religious world, and in this way becomes a connecting link between the religious forces as they go forward to the conquest of the world for the Master. It does not seek to take the place of the pulpit or the preacher of the gospel, for God has ordained that the world shall