

Prayer, Psalms, and Creeds, with a few other Prayers, short and easy to be understood, and of course bright and "taking" hymns. In some Schools, the Psalms are read and chanted antiphonally, the boys and girls taking the verses alternately, and then uniting in the glorias, and where this can be managed, it certainly adds greatly to the heartiness of the service.

If such a service as this is used, and all our teachers give a good example by joining heartily in themselves, and see that the little ones, entrusted to their care, are joining, then the Public worship of the Sunday School will be regarded in its right light, as the most important object for which the children are gathered together. You will feel instinctively that the Lord Jesus, according to His promise, is in the midst of you, and the sense of His abiding presence will help you greatly in instructing your little charges in the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

II.

What I have named as the second division of the subject may not strictly belong to the "Influence of Prayer in Sunday School Work," but it is so closely connected with the subject, that I do not feel justified in passing it by.

It is the prominent place which Prayer should hold in all Sunday School teaching.

The Church Catechism is given to the teachers as containing in a very compressed form the whole sum of Christian doctrine. It may be only a skeleton, but Christians of all ages have found the necessity of a short and simple frame-work, on which the perfect building may be raised. The bones are after all not the least important part of the human body. And the Church Catechism has never been surpassed, as a sound, simple and scriptural epitome of the Christian faith. It is the teacher's part, as their scholars become old enough to understand what they have before learned by rote—to clothe this skeleton with warmth and beauty.

There is a way of teaching the Catechism which reminds us of Ezekiel's vision. There were many bones, "and lo, they were very dry." The heavenly voice enquires, "Can these bones live?" We know they did live when the Spirit of God had breathed divine life into them. There is no dryness about the Church Catechism when a teacher can fill it with the warm life of his own glowing faith.

And no part of the Catechism will be found more suggestive to such a teacher than that which relates to Prayer. When you come to that you have an opportunity of setting before your children in a new light, the relation between every baptized Christian and a loving Heavenly Father. The adoption into God's family becomes very real to those who have found the habit of addressing Him daily in holy, reverend, and trustful Prayer.

Dear friends, do not leave this part of your work undone. And while you teach the little ones to use the Lord's Prayer constantly, and to prize it, as one of the most sacred legacies our dear Lord has left to His Church, encourage them by all the gentle persuasive powers you possess to bring all their wants, and all their troubles to Him who will never fail them in their need.

III.

I would speak to you lastly, of *intercessory prayer*, the special prayers which every teacher whose heart is in his work, will offer on behalf of his young charges.

That a very great and certain blessing attaches to such prayer is abundantly proved from the statements of Holy Scripture, and from the experience of all who have given it a genuine trial.

Like mercy, it is twice blessed.

"It blesseth him that gives and him that takes." You have no doubt heard of the long spiritual conflict in the mind of St. Augustine, as recorded in his "confessions," before he came to the knowledge of the true faith. And of how his mother Monica, who was a steadfast member of the Church, prayed for many years that her son might be saved from the dissipated life, a dangerous heresy into which he had fallen. At last she went weeping to a good bishop and asked his advice. And he told her, that "it was not possible that the son of such prayers should perish." And so it proved. No name, in the long roll of Christian saints, is more famous, or more worthy of honour than that of the Bishop of Hippo.

See then what a mother's prayer can do!

Perhaps it is not possible, except for a few whose sympathies are unusually warm, to pray with so great intensity of supplication for those who are not united to us by ties of blood.

But there is a very close spiritual relationship, beside that by which all baptized Christians are united in the body of Christ. It exists between all who hold any office in the Church, and those who are entrusted to their care.

And such an office brings with it the strongest obligations to intercessory prayers. The Sunday School teacher has the same need to pray for his class as the clergyman for his parish.

Such a prayer would very properly be offered at least once a week, say when you are going to prepare your lesson for the Sunday, and where there are members of the class who have given special cause of doubt or anxiety, they might be mentioned by name.

I sincerely believe that the advantages which would come to our Schools, if such a habit were general among our teachers, would be very great.

Besides the direct answers which are always given to faithful prayer, its influence would be felt both by teacher and scholar. The children would insensibly feel that deep interest was taken in this welfare. As Martin Luther, in one of the most anxious moments of his career, was strengthened by the thought of friends at home. "They are praying for me," he said. So a thoughtful child will look with confidence and affection upon a spiritual guide, who continually prays that he may himself be guided aright. And the Sunday School lesson with such a prayerful teacher, will never be a dull routine, but will be felt to be an opportunity of sowing good seed from which an abundant harvest may spring in the appointed time.

Home & Foreign Church News.

From our own Correspondents.

DOMINION.

QUEBEC.

SHIGAWAKE.—The Holy season of Lent is being duly observed in this parish, which is under the charge of the Rev. Joseph W. Norwood. Services are held on two days during the week, and there is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist on each Friday morning (Good Friday excepted) at all of which there has been a good attendance. The Church seems to be progressing very favorably in this parish, as the people have been very fortunate in having two such excellent rectors as the present one and the Rev. F. E. J. Lloyd now of St. Peter's, Charlottetown. Three young men of the congregation, one the rector's son, intend shortly to leave for Bishop's College, Lennoxville, to prepare themselves for holy orders.

QUEBEC.—The Lord Bishop of Niagara is expected in Quebec about the 1st Sunday after Easter to hold confirmation services in the city churches.

St. Matthews.—The Rev. Lennox W. Williams, M.A., rector of this church, intends visiting England about the 1st of July for a couple of months, and his duty here will be taken by the Rev. Canon Bullock, a well known Leeds, Eng., clergyman.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—The funeral of Dr. Howard on Saturday afternoon was one of the largest ever witnessed in Montreal. Long before two o'clock thousands had assembled in front of the deceased gentleman's residence, representatives of the learning, law, religion and commerce of the city.

The choir of St. George's performed the musical part of the service, with Mr. Fairclough at the organ. His Lordship Bishop Bond, Archdeacon Lindsay and Dean Carmichael conducted the service, assisted by Dr. Norton, Rev. R. Lindsay and Rev. L. N. Tucker. At the conclusion the Dead March was played upon the organ.

The graduating class had carried a column of flowers with the inscription, "To our beloved Dean." Outside the Cathedral the cortege was re-formed and proceeded to Mount Royal.

In St. George's Church, Dean Carmichael in the course of his sermon, made touching reference to the sad event. "Pre-eminently successful," he said, "as a physician, brilliant as a lecturer and teacher, influential as a citizen, devoted to the onward progress of medical education; the honored guide of the growing youth of the profession, and the leader and representative of those who themselves were leaders, he fulfilled a destiny irresistible for good, and that as age advanced brought greater honor to his already honored name. But, best of all, he believed in his God and Saviour, and humble minded as a child, lived and died the Christian man. His was the life that absorbed all that science could teach him without one breath of doubt falling on the mirror of his pure and humble faith."

The students of McGill Medical School have passed the following resolution:—

Whereas we the final members of the classes of Mc-

Gill Medical School attended with great pleasure and benefit to ourselves the lectures of our beloved Dean, the late R. Palmer Howard, M.D., up to the day on which he was stricken with a fatal illness, and listened with affectionate interest to his words of kindly counsel, and we the primary members over whom he has exercised a kindly authority have looked forward to the pleasure and profit to be derived from his teachings, and whereas it has pleased the Almighty in His inscrutable wisdom to deprive his family of a kind and indulgent father, his school of a brilliant teacher and the world of an eminent scientist.

Be it resolved that though we humbly bow to the Divine decree, we at the same time wish to thus express our grief at the blow that has fallen on the public and our sincere sympathy to his family in this the moment of their sad bereavement, and

Be it resolved that this resolution be published in the daily papers and that a copy be forwarded to the family of the deceased.—Witness.

St. Jude's.—Thirty candidates for confirmation received "the laying on of hands" by the Bishop, during the evening service. His Lordship's text was, "All these things are against me," Gen. 42, 36.

St. Matthias.—The confirmation class in this congregation will number about ten or twelve. (D.V.) The Bishop will hold the service on next Sunday afternoon. Some of the candidates being pupils of the Mackay Institute for deaf mutes will add interest to the occasion.

ONTARIO.

RAWDON.—The congregation of St. Thomas' church, desiring to acknowledge the kindness of the Rev. Mr. Geen in conducting the service in their church, while the parish was vacant, appointed a deputation to wait upon him and to present the following address with a number of valuable books:

To THE REV. A. L. GEEN, P.D., Belleville.—We, the members of St. Thomas' church, Rawdon, wish to convey to you our deepest gratitude for the interest evinced by you in behalf of our congregation, and in the welfare of our church, during the absence of a clergyman among us. We are fully aware of the many difficulties under which you laboured while thus so cheerfully rendering your service to those in need, and thereby following the example of the Divine Head. We feel assured that the zeal which you manifested has been followed by good result. May you long be permitted to thus earnestly to labour. May prosperity and manifold blessings attend you during life, and may you at last receive the reward promised to those who are "faithful unto death." Please accept the accompanying gift as a very small token of appreciation and esteem from the above congregation. Mr. Geen made a reply thanking the congregation for the address and the very suitable and acceptable books.

TORONTO.

St. Barnabas.—The Rev. Dr. Osborne, of Markham, preached a very able sermon in this church last Thursday evening.

Parochial Missions to the Jews.—The Rev. J. D. Cayley, Secretary for above Fund, begs to remind the clergy, that Good Friday offerings for the P. M. J., should be sent in to the Synod office by 30th inst., to be included in this year's report.

St. Matthew's Church, Over-the-Don, which is the chief gathering point of the Church of England people who reside in St. Matthew's Ward, has developed such a large congregation that a larger edifice is needed. The rector, Rev. J. Scott Howard, has been ably assisted by his vestry and congregation in the work, and it is proposed to erect a \$20,000 brick edifice to replace the rough-cast church at the corner of Cumming and De Grassi Avenues. Mr. John Smith, the heavy landowner of Over-the-Don, has offered a site of 60 by 192 feet at the corner of Bolton and First-avenues. This site is valued at \$8500, and Mr. Smith gives it on condition that the other site will be sold and the erection of the new church proceeded with.

Toronto.—A Scandal.—That a Christian city should be invited to a semi-dramatic entertainment on Good Friday by a popular caterer to the amusement loving public is scandalous. One cannot but express regret that a lady so refined in manner and so gifted as Mrs. Scott Siddons should have so little respect for the feelings of a very large section of this Christian community as to advertise her entertainment on that most sacred, of all sacred days, Good Friday. If she