

Our Mission.

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preparation. Spiritually he continued to decline until at the time of his conversion, when twenty-two years of age, he had no hope in God and no care for salvation. It was just one week before his conversion that he appeared before the footlights, with every evidence of coming success. One evening he, with others, was handed a ticket to Mr. Moody's meetings, then being held in the Brooklyn Rink. Out of curiosity he entered the Rink, and it was then and there that God met him and told him He had something better in store for him than the career of a buffoon. He attended the meetings a few nights, and after a great struggle he was converted. From the very moment of his conversion he commenced to tell others what God had done for him. His brother George was converted about the same time. The two engaged a small house and fitted it up for prayer-meetings, and they would stand at the alley entrance, hailing all persons who passed by, and inviting them to the meetings in the upper room in the rear.

This was the commencement in earnest of Ferdinand Schiverea's preaching. He worked at anything to make a living, and at night held meetings in his little upper room or elsewhere. In this way he went on until four years ago, when, after five years of struggle to leave all and go and preach the Gospel to the non-church-going masses, he gave up all secular employment. Without a dollar promised, with hardly a friend to stand by him, and in the middle of one of the severest winters, he commenced telling the masses of neglected people about the great love of God.

While he was holding these meetings, the Rev. Dr. Geo. F. Pentecost heard of him. He took him at once into one of the worst parts of the city of Brooklyn, and set him preaching upon the streets. Dr. Pentecost then engaged premises which had been built for a bar-room dance-house. Into this place Mr. Schiverea's street congregations were invited, but very soon it was found to be too small to hold the multitudes of people hungering for the good news they had heard in the streets. Dr. Pentecost, feeling that at last he had found out how to reach the masses, stood with Mr. Schiverea night after night, and with him proclaimed the glad tidings of redemption in Christ. Their message was accepted by so large a number that Dr. Pentecost felt the need of a building, and at once made arrangements to meet this want. In a few months a chapel was erected for the masses, large enough to hold a great number of them; and the place that was marked on the missionary map as

one of the dark spots of Brooklyn, was changed almost beyond recognition.

After holding meetings with Mr. Pentecost fourteen months—labouring for at least a year every night upon the streets and indoors—Mr. Schiverea went into new fields. He has been in Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Chicago, New York, and Canada. In all those places God has signally blessed his efforts, especially among the neglected classes. Lately the authorities in some cities have prevented him from preaching upon the streets; and, not willing to abandon his street-work, he is now arranging to be licensed as a Bible peddler. He intends to have a Bible-carriage, such as is employed so usefully among the lower classes in London. With this carriage, properly equipped and stocked, he intends going from place to place, working in the North in summer, and in the South in winter—offering his Bibles for sale, and preaching the Gospel to the masses as an inducement to buy. All who may become interested in Mr. Schiverea's work will be afforded any desired information upon addressing David Terry, broker, corner Ann and Nassau streets, New York; or we shall be pleased to receive contributions.

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

By REV. JOHN McEWEN, Lakefield, Ont.

[Jan. 3] Josiah and the Book (2 Kings 22.)
of the Law. 1-13.

The reign of Manasseh, Hezekiah's son, has intervened since last lesson, covering a period of sixty years, the longest reign of any of the kings of Judah. There has been a great apostasy since the days of Hezekiah. The idolatrous party are now supreme, and the persecution of the faithful has been relentless, 2 Chron. 33: 1-9.

I. THE YOUNG KING.

Grand-son of Manasseh. The hope of his character and of the cause of God lay on his mother's side; who had escaped the corrupting influences of the Northern and Southern kingdoms in the quiet town of Baskath in the south-west plain of the Mediterranean Sea. She had instilled into his young life the principles of piety, reverence and obedience.

II. JOSIAH BECOMES KING AT EIGHT YEARS

of age. The territory has now extended far up into the North, 2 Chron 34: 8.

THE WISE AND UPRIGHT CHARACTER OF HIS REIGN.
v. 2, Deut. 5: 28, 29

III. THE GREAT REFORMATION UNDER HIS REIGN.
2 Chron. 34: 3.

Growing up from infancy in the fear of God, and under godly nurture is the true source of strong and godly manhood; a career of sin is no condition of true zeal after conversion—but rather a source of peril and loss.