

ignorant as when they began. The dry asking of these questions has accomplished nothing. Had the children read the story of the shipreck, without being interrupted by these bony questions, they might have been interested and instructed. A smart teacher, who will take the trouble to study his lesson and the things connected with it, and also to study the art of communicating to others what he knows, might spend half-an-hour on these verses, and awaken such an interest that on the next Sunday, when the doings on the island of Malta are before the class, there will not be a vacant seat or an unprepared lesson.

The world is a little wiser than the Sunday-school in this respect. When teaching is to be done, it must be done by those who know something about what they profess to teach. Let a teacher of music put out his sign, and advertise to teach pupils. Let the discovery be made that he knows nothing about music, or that he has not the gift of imparting what knowledge he has, and few people can be found so simple-minded as to send their children to take lessons of him. Let a lady apply to a board of school directors for a situation to teach grammar, geography, or geometry. If her acquaintance with those sciences is found to be as slender as the acquaintance of these uneducated teachers with the Bible, she is informed that the place is not open to her. The good house-keeper is not anxious to secure the services of the lady from Ireland just landed off the emigrant ship, who honestly declares that, though she knows nothing about cookery, she has no objection to taking the place and being "taiched."

The difficulty with the band of teachers before us is that they have never been taught how to teach, or what to teach. "Will you take a class, madam?" "With a great deal of pleasure, sir." That is too often the only fitness, or examination as to fitness. The teachers mean well. They have listened all their lives to able sermons. But these sermons were all the religious instruction they had, and they did not descend into the detail of *how to teach*. They know some of the leading doctrines of Christianity; but they have not that intimate knowledge of the Bible, and the circumstances connected with Bible history, which would make them good teachers. Nor have they all the means of finding out what to teach and how to teach it. Their houses do not abound with commentaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, or other scriptural helps. In many instances their only help, beyond a reference Bible, is the question book. And it is a sad fact that most of the question books now published hinder as much as they help.

What, then, shall we do for our "uneducated Sunday-school?" We must educate it. We must show it how to teach. We must buy it a good "teachers' library," with all the books published for the help of people who want to study the Word of God. The beginning of this library will cost ten pounds. After that, spend twenty pounds a year on it. *The teachers must meet together to study.* Not only to read over the verses, and ask each other the printed questions in the question book, but to compare help with help, idea with idea, Scripture with Scripture. The pastor, or the superintendent, or anybody who knows how, must preside, and put the enterprise through. The study-meeting must be social and pleasant.

The blind cannot lead the blind. Both will fall into the ditch. Uneducated teachers will make ignorant scholars.

CALM.

I STAND upon the Mount of God
With sunlight in my soul;
I hear the storms in vales beneath,
I hear the thunders roll.

But I am calm with Thee, my God,
Beneath these glorious skies;
And to the height on which I stand,
No storms, nor clouds, can rise.

Oh, THIS is life! Oh, this is joy!
My God, to find Thee so;
Thy face to see, Thy voice to hear,
And all Thy love to know.

—Dr. H. Bonar.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

THE probability of an Afghanistan war is the great question now agitating the public mind. It is much feared that such a war would disturb our relations with Russia; and that Persia would also be involved. However that may be, war preparations are being made on both sides, and altogether the outlook is very grave.

Are we approaching another financial panic? So many are asking, for these things are periodical; and the failure of the Glasgow City Bank, with liabilities amounting to £10,000,000 or £12,000,000—some say £14,000,000—has shaken the commercial world. The *Times* says that rumour has been busy in the City, and that "firms and institutions which should be above suspicion have not been spared"; and further, that "we have ample evidence in the Bank returns of the existence of the gravest anxiety to the business of the world."

The mission of the Rev. W. H. M. H. Aitken to the young men of London has so far been outwardly successful that large crowds have been drawn to hear him; but if the countenances of his hearers are sufficient indication of the inward effects produced, a deep impression has been made, and many cases are spoken of in which the preacher's words have been powerful in producing marvellous changes in the deportment and habits of some who have attended. Evidently the Spirit of God has been present at the services.

The House of Commons will miss a familiar face when it next assembles—that of Mr. Whalley, M.P., whose persistent advocacy of the claims of the distinguished Dartmoor convict, no less than his sterling Protestantism, brought him prominently before the House. While his efforts were not unfrequently provocative of much merriment, his earnestness and sincerity secured him the respect of many who differed from his views. Mr. Whalley represented Peterborough for twenty years.

Dean Stanley has been warmly welcomed in the United States. Only two days after his arrival he attended the 250th anniversary of the landing of John Endicott, the first governor of Massachusetts, which was celebrated at Salem on Sept. 18. At a banquet the Dean responded to the toast of "Our Old Home," and gave an address full of reciprocal expressions of admiration and regard for the new home as well as the old. His address contained many eloquent passages which we have not space to quote.

In the London School Board districts it is estimated that there are 614,857 children requiring education, and provision is made, or nearly completed, for 518,000 children. The Board has 278 schools under its control, accommodating nearly 200,000 children—being an increase of thirty-six schools during the year. During the last seven years accommodation has been provided for the education of 203,132 children. The average attendance is about 75 per cent. of those on the school registers. Up to last midsummer 8,508 homeless and destitute orphan and lawless children were taken off the streets. The cost of all this is defrayed by rates of, at present, 5½d. in the pound, producing a sum of about £300,000 per annum.

The Presbyterians of Ireland are doing a praiseworthy work in relation to orphan children. Thirteen years ago the Presbyterian Orphan Society was formed. Twenty-five orphans were taken charge of. Since then the number has multiplied more than a hundredfold, there being now over 2,600 on the roll, 160 having been added during the past year. The funds for their support are contributed to by 540 congregations. Last year the income was £10,763. The invested funds amount to £22,617.

The autumnal meetings of the Baptist Union at Leeds, the Congregational Union at Liverpool, the Evangelical Union at Glasgow, and the Church Congress at Sheffield, have largely occupied the columns of the religious press. The number of papers read and topics discussed ought to be productive of much good. The list is too formidable to summarise in this column. Perhaps the best deliverances have been those of the presidents, the utterances of each of whom have been highly suggestive, and have to some extent struck the keynote of the discussions, but there have not been wanting those who have spoken with vigour and have struck out new and independent lines of thought.

The name of George Thompson is not so familiar to the present generation as it was to the last. Thirty years ago he was at the height of his popularity. It was considered by many a rare treat to hear him speak. He had then for years laboured hard for the Anti-Corn Law League, and previously had been one of the most earnest advocates of the Anti-Slavery