

When we purchase a bushel of wheat in the market, we may take one of three courses with it. We may sell it as it is, or we may prepare it and make it into food and set it on our table, or we may prepare the ground to receive it, and sow it, and then reap the crop that springs from it. Now a good book is a bushel of wheat of another sort. If I sell its contents just as they are, and call them sermons, I am, at least if I do it knowingly, dishonest. But if I grind them in my own mill and prepare them in quite a different fashion from their original form for the table from which I feed my people, then I am not dishonest, but am merely looking out, as every faithful minister ought to look out, for the mental sustenance of my people. The grain may be another's, but the grinding and the cooking are mine. Or, again, the thoughts in the book may germinate in my mind, and I may give my people the harvest that springs therefrom, and in this case, while the seed-corn has been reaped from another, the tilling of the soil and the reaping of the crop have been my own. Books are the raw material, like the cotton or the wool; sermons ought to be the manufactured article, like the web of cloth or the suit of clothes. Books are the yarn, from which we may get the warp and the woof; but the weaving must be our own, and the pattern, too."

### COOKERY.

IT is at once surprising and encouraging to notice how much greater attention is now given to cookery than used to be. In Britain schools under the highest patronage have been established for the purpose of giving instruction in this art, and these are attended by all classes, to all appearance with great pleasure and great profit. It is now found, apparently to the surprise of very many, that the old modes of cookery have been very wasteful and at the same time very injurious. As much food, it is said, is every year wasted in Britain as would go a great way to supply all the wants of the inhabitants, while the victuals actually supplied and consumed are of such a character, and are cooked in such a manner as to produce any amount of dyspepsia, dissipation, and disrepair. It would be difficult to estimate how many men are driven to the tavern by the slatternly habits and the worse than useless cookery of their wives, how many family quarrels are in this way produced, and how many individuals have eventually, through this means, been led away from all that is good and true and decent and religious. Some may fancy that it is taking a very mean view of life to suppose that such grave, social, moral, and religious consequences can flow from the manner in which one's daily food is prepared. But whether the view be mean or the reverse, it is a perfectly correct one, and the extent to which acquaintance with the very rudest elements of cookery is neglected by those who either are or will shortly be the wives and mothers of the country is as disheartening as it is discreditable. There are many girls in this Canada who, growing up in total ignorance of how to cook a potato or a slice of bacon with any sort of efficiency. They are dawdling out their days in idle fooling, allowing their mothers to do all the work, as if to-morrow were to be as this day and much more abundant; or they are engaged in some handiwork, or in stores all the day, so that when they get married they have no idea of the very first elements of household economy. We at once acknowledge that this is not the general character of our Canadian girls, who are as a rule bright, active, and handy. But there is an ever growing number who turn with fear and dislike from all domestic occupations, and who would rather be found reading some trashy story than learning or doing anything really calculated to fit them for the duties and responsibilities of married and family life. There are many also who are living a poor, thriftless, married existence, who would be only too thankful to get some plain, easily followed directions for the improvement of their household cookery, and it is a matter for thankfulness that there has been at any rate a beginning made in this good work, and that the very success which has attended Miss Dods' labours in Toronto will do a good deal to make the whole question talked of in all its bearings, and awaken a general interest in the preparation of food, not only as a matter of economy, but as one of social well-being and of moral and even religious improvement.

It is satisfactory to notice that the enterprising managers of some of the educational institutions for young ladies are making arrangements for having cookery, both practical and theoretical, added to their list of studies, may we not say, of accomplishments. To allow any girl to grow up in ignorance of the practical work of the kitchen is certainly cruel, and we have no hesitation in adding, positively immoral. To encourage such ignorance because it is thought unlady-

like to be able to do any or every part of household work, is a folly so transparent that it can only result from an utter want of common sense or from a vulgar affectation of gentility alike incompatible with good taste and ordinary prudence. There is many a family where there are grown up daughters, and where the expense of a servant can be ill afforded, that would both be more comfortable and more respected if hired help were almost or altogether dispensed with. There would be better health, more real comfort, and brighter prospects if people who need to practise such economy would only try how much it is the case that "God helps those who help themselves."

THE following ministerial subscriptions to Home Mission Fund debt are acknowledged. Rev. Alexander Stewart, M.A., Clinton, \$10; Rev. A. G. Forbes, Kinloss, \$5.

WE call special attention to the advertisement in to-day's issue in reference to the Christian Conference to be held in this city from the 10th to the 13th of December next. The brethren who are to take the chief part of the work in this Conference are so well known that any words of ours in the way of commendation are quite unnecessary. We have no doubt that the season will be one very much to be remembered—a veritable "time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

THE "Church Record," published by Shaw & Co., Paternoster Row, in its November number, contains the following:—"The Next Pervert to Rome.—We are able to state upon excellent authority that the English Romanists are making every effort to bring under their influence her Royal Highness the Princess Louise. We believe that we are the first to publish this intelligence, but we are assured upon the authority of a well known Romish priest that the gathering into the fold of her Royal Highness will be publicly announced before twelve months are passed. We sincerely hope that this may not be so, but there was a statement which headed the list of perverts to Rome published some time since which gives colour to the rumour." The above also appears in the Christ Church Sidcup (Kent), "Parish Magazine," and it was on this authority that the Rev. Dr. Usher, of Montreal, referred to the subject in his sermon last Sabbath. There is no foundation whatever for the rumour.

IN connection with the Pan-Presbyterian Council to be next year held in Philadelphia a Conference of leading members of the different Presbyterian denominations was held in Philadelphia last week to take preparatory steps for the gathering, which is expected to surpass in importance and representative character the great International Presbyterian Council held in Edinburgh in 1877, in which forty distinct organizations were represented. The sum of \$5,000 has already been pledged for the payment of the ocean passage of European delegates, and the remaining amount required will easily be made up. Of the topics selected for discussion ten are theological, ten pertain to Church affairs, and ten are practical. Among prominent British ministers who have promised to be present are.—Drs. Blackie and Rainey, from the Free Church of Scotland; Drs. Flint, Mitchell and Principal Tulloch, of the Established Church of Scotland; Professor Calderwood and Dr. Cairns, of the United Presbyterian Church; Dr. Dykes and Dr. Erwin, from England; and Drs. Knox and Stevenson, of Ireland. Canada will no doubt be well represented.

THE first of a series of popular lectures in connection with Queen's University, Kingston, was given on the evening of Nov. 14th, by the Rev. David Mitchell of Central Presbyterian Church, Toronto. The Rev. Principal Grant, as chairman, expressed the pleasure which it gave him to introduce his old College friend as the lecturer of the evening. The subject of the lecture was "Sir Walter Scott," and the audience listened for two hours with deep interest to a vivid sketch of the life, character and genius of the great poet and novelist. The lecturer concluded with a few judicious remarks, more especially addressed to students, on the uses and abuses of fictitious literature. Mr. Mitchell, the next morning, gave an admirable address to the Students' Missionary Association and the larger Col-

legiate Association, lately established, representing all faculties of the University. The address was more especially on the best methods of pursuing College work, and the lecturer, at the close, received a most enthusiastic vote of thanks. Principal Grant gave the second lecture of the course on Friday, Nov. 21st, on "Norman Macleod." To those who heard this lecture in Toronto, it is unnecessary to say that it was a brilliant, eloquent, and inspiring presentation of one of the noblest and grandest of Scotchmen, given with the appreciation and true insight that a loving and profound sympathy alone can create.

THE Toronto Presbytery held an ordinary meeting in the usual place on Tuesday last. In the absence of the regular Moderator, who had some time ago engaged to address a missionary meeting in Montreal, Rev. J. M. Cameron was called to the chair. A letter was read from Mrs. Topp, acknowledging the receipt of the minute adopted by the Presbytery anent her late husband, and thanking the Court cordially for the same. Rev. Dr. Reid reported that, after due notice, he had moderated in a call from the congregation of Cooke's Church in this city, which was given harmoniously in favour of Rev. John Kirkpatrick, a minister of the United Presbyterian Church in America, and pastor of a congregation in New York. The stipend offered to Mr. Kirkpatrick in the meantime is \$2,000. Messrs. P. G. Close, Wm. Wilson, Wm. Rennie and R. J. Hunter, were heard as commissioners in support of the call. The call was sustained, and ordered to be sent to Mr. Kirkpatrick, with request that he lay it before his Presbytery in the ordinary way to be issued by them without delay. On application made, Rev. A. Gilray obtained leave of absence from his pulpit for four months, with a view to go to Europe in quest of improved health. The Presbytery resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the additional collection of hymns. After sitting for a considerable time, the committee rose, and by their chairman, Rev. R. Wallace, reported that they had adopted certain resolutions anent the whole of said hymns. The report was adopted by the Presbytery, and ordered to be sent to the General Assembly's Committee on Hymns. Some minor matters were also transacted, and the next ordinary meeting was appointed to be held in the usual place on the second Tuesday of January, 1880, at eleven a.m.

### HOME MISSION—SPECIAL EFFORT.

It is with much satisfaction that we state the hopeful results, so far as now appears, of this effort within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hamilton. Ten sessions have made no report, but doubtless in some of them the matter has been properly attended to. Three reported that the sessions did not consider the time opportune for making the appeal in their congregations but would attend to the matter soon. In thirty-four congregations the circular from the Moderator of the General Assembly had been read with evidently good effect. Some had made arrangements for a special collection; others had been led to organize an association for stated contributions, where no such organization previously existed; while again others expected the increase to be manifested in the amount contributed by the usual monthly subscriptions. The amount already reported is \$1,510.

As Central Church, Hamilton, has not as yet reported anything, but will certainly not be behind others, as Knox Church, St. Paul's and McNab street, Hamilton, and Knox Church, St. Catharines, intend contributing in addition to the amount (\$741) already sent, and as several other liberal and influential congregations have not been heard from, it seems almost certain that not only 50 per cent. additional to last year's contributions will be secured, but the increase may reach 75 per cent. If the response throughout the Church is as hearty as within the Presbytery of Hamilton, more than the whole amount required by the Committee will be forthcoming.

The sudden arrest put to our Home Mission work by an empty treasury will not be an unmitigated evil, if it shall secure that in every congregation the work and necessities of the Church be brought under the notice of our people, and if the indifference and want of heartiness shewn by many, both among the ministers and people, be rebuked and removed in consequence of an outpouring of the spirit of liberality on our congregations.