

Mr. McDONALD said that no advice given to a child could be better than to keep the Sabbath day holy. He thought that they should encourage all publications not strictly religious.

Rev. Mr. DENISON (Buffalo) thought the kind of books on education could not be put too high; there was one book that had been referred to which he did not think any Sunday School in the States would admit, and he hoped Canadians would be equally careful—it was a book with a grain of wheat and a bushel of chaff. This book was understood to be Fanny Fern's. The Sabbath School was the nursery of the church and they should be careful of the books ever put into the children's hands.

Mr. OLIVER (Paris) thought the Common School Library would supply sound scientific information on the one hand, while the Sunday School library should supply the religious want.

Mr. ROSE said that books on travel aided him in illustrating scriptural subjects for the benefit of the youth—he felt the absolute necessity of the Sabbath School supplying this want. The portion of the country from which he came was otherwise deficient.

Rev. Mr. MARLING supposed the question was meant to cover the whole question of Sabbath School libraries. He had known persons procuring libraries to order on speculations and certain members were appointed to examine books and report on their character before they were admitted into the libraries. Many new books which ought to be brought in they were unable to procure owing to the existence of a copyright law. They should look over all the lists of publications, and not be tied down to certain Philadelphia publishers' selections.

Mr. JEFFERS moved a second amendment that books of merely scientific interest and religious fiction be excluded from libraries. He thought it injurious to children to read works of fiction, which led to the reading of other fictions, which were likely to prove injurious to the young mind.

Mr. FORTÉ said great carelessness was exercised in selecting for Sabbath School Libraries; he had experience of the matter from keeping a Depository in Buffalo. In one case out of 20 books selected by a man in his neighbourhood, all but 21 were found on examination to advocate doctrines entirely opposed to the Bible.

Mr. McKAY believed many of the religious novels were more highly coloured than ordinary works of fiction. The works of Christian travellers he highly approved of.

The following were the resolutions adopted:—

1. Resolved,—That in reference to the training of teachers, it is desirable and earnestly recommended that a teacher's Bible class, to which the elder and more advanced scholars be invited, and to meet once a week, be maintained when and where practicable, in connection with each school. And in addition that superior male and female class, also composed of elder and more advanced scholars as a set of normal training classes, out of which teachers are to be taken to form part of each school, and to meet at the same time and place as the school, be also maintained.

2. That this meeting deems the Sabbath School an important means of instructing the heads of the flock, as well as an auxiliary to the parents in training up their children in the fear of God. Be it therefore resolved, that in connection with each Sabbath school there be

a visiting committee to canvass a given district to bring in those who are not attending any Sunday school; that teachers be earnestly requested to aid the committee in their work, and the scholars themselves should be taught that they can do much to bring in those that are without.

3. That the requisite qualifications of a thorough Sabbath school teacher are, accredited piety, aptness to teach and love for the work, but that in cases in which such teachers cannot be obtained, the best procurable may be employed.

4. That the convention feels deeply the importance of infant and Bible classes in connection with Sabbath schools and earnestly recommends the establishment of them throughout the Province.

5. That in the opinion of this convention it is a most important element in the Christian training of the young, to make them take an active part in sustaining the great benevolent movements of the day; that the officers of Sabbath schools make arrangements for the regular communication of missionary intelligence to the scholars, and the receiving of contributions.

6. That we cannot but recognize the great utility of Sabbath school conventions, and therefore deem it desirable that arrangements be made for holding local or provincial assemblies of that character in succeeding years. That such conventions be composed of delegates appointed by Sabbath schools or Sabbath school organizations, holding what are commonly regarded as evangelical sentiments, viz:—1. The inspiration of the scriptures; 2. The deity of Christ and the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit; 3. The total depravity of human nature; 4. The vicarious sacrifice and character of Christ's work; 5. Justification by faith alone; 6. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit; 7. The eternity of future rewards and punishments.

From our Correspondent in Canada.

ALTHOUGH many little items of Canadian news might be furnished to interest your readers, your correspondent leaves them to be copied at your leisure from the pages of *The Presbyterian*, and confines himself at present to what may be called the principal item of ecclesiastical intelligence of the day the opening of the new St. Andrew's Church, Hamilton, C. W., and as he does not profess any great personal acquaintance with the facts of the case, or familiarity with the secrets of architectural beauty, he must draw upon a variety of statements lately published. "Many are belonging to the Church of Scotland," says one paper have expressed their conviction that it is "the handsomest church in Canada." "The new church with its lofty spire," says another journal, "forms one of the most conspicuous architectural features in 'the ambitious city.'" The spire is 198 feet high, from the level of the side walk. It is admirably proportioned, and reminds the passer by of those venerable cloud-piercing structures, which are not uncommon in the mother country, but which till now have been looked upon as beyond the reach of Canadians. It is ornamented in the most tasteful manner, with carved canopies and pinnacles. The cost of the spire alone, is £2500—a sum which would be thought large enough by some for the erection of one church, if not a couple of whole churches. The doors are very richly wrought, as are also the seats and part of the

gallery which is supported by oval clustered columns, with carved capitals. On each side are five handsome Gothic windows, glazed with diamond shaped stained glass, imported from England for the express purpose. The pulpit is highly ornamented with carved work, and presents a very chaste and handsome appearance. The total amount of all the contracts for building, &c., is nearly £11000. In the main floor and galleries, there are about 1100 sittings, and it is pleasing to learn that in keeping with the character of the Parent Church, as being the poor man's church many of these sittings are to be free. It is gratifying to record this additional instance, among others within these few years, of a very marked improvement in our ecclesiastical architecture in North America. We were accustomed to regard St. Andrew's, Montreal, as without exception, the finest Presbyterian Church we had ever seen, and when the spire of that Church is completed, according to the original design, we are not sure but competent judges will still permit it to bear the palm. We think there is a neatness about it which will compare favourably with the ornate exterior of St. Andrew's, Hamilton. But the latter is certainly a splendid and striking proof, at once of the prosperity of the city which it adorns and the abounding liberality which, even in the West, may be evoked by an earnest and active ministers. It will soon be your turn to chronicle the erection of a somewhat similar edifice in the more ancient city of Chebucto. The Halifaxians are a spirited people when they take it into their heads. The new Church at Hamilton was to be opened yesterday. The morning and afternoon services were to be conducted by Dr. Matheson of St. Andrew's, Montreal, and Professor Wier of Kingston, and the evening services by the respected and successful pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Robt. Burnet, who has taken a great interest in its erection.

In continuation of the remarks in the preceding letter on the Minister's Widows' and Orphans' Fund of our church and the extension of its benefits to the Clergymen of the Lower Provinces, it appears on inquiry that the Commissioners, being a Board incorporated by act of the Provincial Parliament, they could not at present extend the benefits beyond the Canadas; but an amendment might be got with a clause giving permission to receive money from extraneous sources and to expend it for the benefit of parties not resident in this Province. Of course the Provincial Parliament of Canada could not legislate directly for the benefit of parties out of the Province, nor could their legislation be affected in any way by any subsequent claims of non-residents, for the time of interprovincial Legislation has not yet arrived. But the existing Board of Commissioners could be empowered to receive and expend their funds in such a way that indirectly non-residents might receive as much benefits as actual residents. In this case it would be necessary for you to entrust the management of your contributions to gentlemen, in the election of whom you would have no voice and with whose proceedings you could not interfere except by remonstrance. In the event of a General Assembly being formed this remonstrance would be effective enough. But if such men as have hitherto managed this business—zealous, cautious, and most worthy, are elected as Commissioners by the Synod of Canada in time to come, your interests would be safe in their hands. Besides for the efficient transaction of business, it is absolutely requisite that the Commissioners should live in a central place, and within immediate reach of each other; and for business