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CONFERENCE OF 1869.

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Poetry.

Lines.

Died, in Compton, Que., Oct. 3rd, 1868, Walter Judson, in the 20th year of his age, and on April 12th, 1869, Frederick George, in the 26th year of his age, both sons of Alvin Farwell, Esq.

"Prepare to meet thy God."

Our cherished ones have fallen
In their early life and bloom,
And our hearts with woe were laden,
As we bore them to the tomb.
Our fondest hopes have perished,
And sorrow deep and sore,
In bleeding hearts is nourished,
For those we see no more.

Their loving voice is silenced;
We hear their tones no more—
Their happy smile, ah! never
Can cheer us as before.
We cannot wake their slumbers,
Their loving eye or smile
No more shall beam upon us
With love and joy the while.

We miss their happy presence
Through many a weary day;
We miss them at the altar
When we kneel around to pray.
Yet we would no more recall them
To this life of toil and pain;
To the struggle and the anguish
Of a bed of death again.

They're gone from care and sorrow,
Which crowd our earthly way,
And from their peaceful slumber
Have 'waked in endless day.
But alas! the fair and youthful—
For in manhood's prime they stood—
Have passed in the spring so hopeful,
To the grave's dark solitude.

Flowers too frail and lovely
To flourish here below;
Pure angel hands have borne them
Where plants immortal grow.
Yet bloomed awhile among us,
Enough to gain our love,
And make us feel more lonely
To see them borne above.

Our hearts are sad and lonely;
Our home is lonely now;
But we know a crown of glory
Is resting on their brow.
They have gone, all white and stainless,
From the touch of mortal clay,
And we know they are rejoicing
In the light of endless day.

They lived to throw upon us
The brightness of their souls,
And make us feel a darkness
To see that brightness flown.
Vain are the tears shed by us,
Which memory retains,
We have sweet comfort, knowing
For them to die was gain.

Yet like a star that glimmers
Far in the azure sky,
They beckon us to follow,
Heaven's gates received their spirits;
Their clay lies 'neath the sod,
May we obey the summons—
"Prepare to meet thy God."

A Little Sermon.

Sitting in a station the other day, I had a little sermon preached in the way I like; and I'll report it for your benefit, because it taught one of the beautiful lessons which we all should learn, and taught it in such a natural, simple way, that no one could forget it. It was a bleak, snowy day; the train was late; the ladies' room dark and smoky, and the dozen women, old and young, who sat waiting impatiently, all looked cross, low-spirited, or stupid. I felt all three; and thought, as I looked around, that my fellow-beings were a very unamiable and uninteresting set.

Just then, a forlorn old woman, shaking with palsy, came in with a basket of little wares for sale, and went about mutely offering them to the sitters. Nobody bought anything, and the poor old soul stood blinking at the door a minute, as if reluctant to go out into the bitter storm again. She turned presently, and poked about the room, as if trying to find something; and then a pale lady in black, who lay as if asleep, on a sofa, opened her eyes, saw the old woman, and instantly asked, in a kind tone, "Have you lost anything, ma'am?"

"No, dear, I'm looking for the heatin' place, to have a warm 'fore I goes out agin. My eyes is poor, and I don't seem to find the furnace nowheres."

"Here it is;" and the lady led her to the steam radiator, placed a chair, and showed her how to warm her feet.

"Well, now; ain't that nice?" said the old woman' spreading her ragged mittens to dry. "Thanky, dear; this is proper comfortable, ain't it? I'm most froze to-day, bein' lame and wimbly; and not selling much makes me sort of downhearted."

The lady smiled, went to the counter, bought a cup of tea and some sort of food, carried it herself to the old woman, and said as respectfully and kindly as if the poor soul had been dressed in silk and fur, "Won't you have a cup of hot tea? It's very comforting such a day as this."

"Sakes alive! Do they give tea to this depot?" cried the old lady, in a tone of innocent surprise, that made a smile go round the room, touching the glummest face like a streak of sunshine. "Well, now, this is jest lovely," added the old lady, sipping away with a relish. "That does warm the cockles of my heart."

While she refreshed herself, telling her story meanwhile, the lady looked over the poor little wares in the basket, bought soap and pins, shoe-strings and tape, and cheered the old soul by paying well for them.

As I watched her doing this, I thought what a sweet face she had, though I'd considered her rather plain before. I felt dreadfully ashamed of myself, that I had grimly shaken my head when the basket was offered to me; and, as I saw a look of interest, sympathy, and kindliness come into the dismal faces around me, I did wish that I had been the magician to call it out. It was only a kind word and a friendly act; but, somehow, it brightened that dingy room wonderfully. It changed the faces of a dozen women; and I think it touched a dozen hearts, for I saw many eyes follow the plain, pale lady with sudden respect, and when the old woman, with many thanks, got up to go, several persons beckoned to her, and bought something as if they wanted to repair their negligence.

Old beggar-women are not romantic; neither are cups of tea, boot-lacings and colored soap; there were no gentlemen present to be impressed by the lady's kind act; so, it wasn't done for effect, and no possible reward could be received for it, except the ungrammatical thanks of a ragged old woman. But that simple little charity was as good as a sermon to those who saw it; and I think each traveller went on her way, better for that half-hour in the dreary station. I can testify that one of them did; and nothing but the emptiness of her purse prevented her from "comforting the cockles of the heart" of every forlorn old woman she met for a week after.—*Merry's Museum.*

Newboro' Circuit.

Perhaps some who have travelled this "field of labour" when it was part of the Elizabethtown and afterwards of the Old Crosby Circuit, when the present village was called the "Isthmus," and others, will be glad to hear the Lord is still carrying on his work in saving souls.

From the kind friends we received a very warm reception on our arrival after Conference. Soon after a parsonage parlor carpet was furnished by the ladies of the circuit. In October we held an interesting Field Meeting, at which the Chairman of the District gave us timely assistance. That meeting was followed by special services in the village of Newboro,' where God was present in mighty power to convict and convert immortal souls—where we had some most melting seasons, as the children of praying parents and others emerged into "the glorious liberty of the sons of God." We were greatly aided by W. H. Johnson, of Picton, and M. Nevill, of Newburg, who kindly left their homes to help in the revival, and we trust the Great Head of the Church will make them increasingly useful in leading sinners to God. The meeting in our new church at Salem was greatly owned by God, and not less than twenty were made happy in Jesus' love; at which place we received much assistance from the labours of Brothers Chamberlain, Shaver, and Leech, brethren ready and willing to make sacrifices for God, especially when labouring where labour is more abundant, answered prayer that he might receive special strength for the work.

In the midst of the latter, the Circuit gave us a most agreeable surprise, just before Christmas, presenting the minister and his wife a congratulatory address, through Col. Kilbourn, a tried friend of Methodism—leaving behind them tangible expressions of their ability and willingness to devise liberal things.

When almost exhausted with continual special services for over three months, Brother Jacob Freshman came to our help, and gave us a delightful sermon at our Feb. Q. Meeting, with two other services on Sunday and Tuesday evenings.

We have had two successful tea meetings, by which the debt upon our churches in Newboro' and Salem were considerably reduced. At the former we received valuable assistance from the Revs. J. E. Sanderson, M. A., of Perth, W. Savage, of Elgin, and T. Kelley, of Napanee, who gave us capital addresses, full of thought and eloquence. Our Missionary Anniversaries were seasons of great interest and enthusiasm. The Chair was taken in Newboro' by Benjamin Tett, M. P. P., and in Salem by Col. Kilbourne, each of which gave good opening speeches and ably presided. Stirring speeches were given by the Revs. W. Savage and J. Chant, and E. Robson, returned Missionary, gave us some most touching and graphic reminiscences of his sojourn in British Columbia. The speeches were heartily responded to by large collections and liberal subscriptions, so that the missionary income of this circuit will be much in advance; and if all the circuits give in the same proportion, averaging over a dollar a member, I am under the impression that every cent of the Society's debt would be swept off this Conference year. All our Connexional Funds are in advance, and the Stewards have made provision to meet the circuit claims in full, for which purposes we shall average over six dollars a member, independent of moneys raised for Church debts, &c. I have never met with a more agreeable staff of official members, nor a kinder people. We hope the Lord will continue to make us a mutual blessing towards each other.

Yours truly,
E. Fessant.

Stouffville Mission,

Which is a term, that I write for the last time, for with this Conference year expires the old Stouffville Mission, and upon its ruins arises the flourishing Stouffville Circuit. This has been a year of great prosperity with us, spiritually and financially. Bro. Gee has held two revival services, one at Musselman"s Lake, when forty-five were added to the class; the other in Stouffville in which many souls were called from darkness to light. The congregations have increased largely, the church accommodation in some places being almost inadequate. With $61 less missionary grant than ever before, we have for the first time, I believe, in our history, paid the appropriations in full, the receipts for circuit funds being double what they were last year. In the early part of the year the Musselman's Lake Church was dedicated, and the contract is let out for a fine church at Bloomington, when we shall have a church at each preaching place. The Stouffville church have purchased a good cabinet organ, and our California people are putting up a shed. Our Sunday schools are doing well. The Stouffville one has been more prosperous than any of the thirteen years of its existence; the Lake school has been resuscitated, and has raised seventy-five dollars for school purposes. We think Stouffville Circuit will become a nice desirable field of labor. Much credit is due to Bro. Gee for his good management and able and faithful discharge of his duties, in the pulpit and out of it.

Geo. Flint, jr., R. S.

Thornbury Mission.

The members of the above mission wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to obey the Divine counsel, "Honor to whom honer is due," so far as it relates to our Ministers. Almost three years ago, Rev. Isaac Baker arrived among us, and entered upon his duties as our pastor. His labors among us during the first two years, although earnest, were not marked by any special revival of religion. Last year the mission officials petitioned for and received a second minister, Rev. John Isaac, who has proved very acceptable to the people.

Last fall our ministers held two of those special means of grace so often and graciously acknowledged by the Great Head of the Church; one at Dawn's appointment, at which a goodly number were led to believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour; the other with which the writer was more intimately acquainted, at Victoria, which was the scene of many convictions and many happy conversions; it resulted in the addition to the invisible Church of more than forty new members, many of whom are the living witnesses to the converting and sustaining "grace of God." Our material prosperity has also been very marked. Last year our ministers presented to the District Meeting a balanced account; this year we have two ministers and our account is so perfectly balanced that "it leaves a little the other way." The church at Thornbury had been newly erected before Bro. Baker came; it is now comfortably finished. Also a new frame chapel was built and finished at Victoria appointment last summer, and both buildings almost free of debt.

The felt and expressed conviction of the membership here is that our ministers are *both* men of peace, men of earnest, sterling principles, men of deep piety, men of God. Our last Quarterly Official Meeting would gladly have requested their further stay among us had it been within the bounds of Methodist discipline. But while in the order of Providence we must soon "part in body," yet we know that their stay among us shall be long and gratefully remembered, and that the prayers of many shall ascend to their God, and to our God, for their peace and prosperity on their future fields of labor, and for a happy reunion above.

W. B.

Ravinna, May 29th, 1869.

Hamilton District.

The Annual Meeting was held at Dundas, May 19th and 20th, the Rev. E. Evans, D. D. in the chair. The meeting was one of harmony and love.

Through the mercy of the Master, the lives and health of all the brethren on the District have been preserved.

The gathering in of statistics shows a gratifying increase in every department of the work. After deducting for deaths and removals there is a net increase of 166 members. All the connexional funds are in advance of last year.

The Educational Fund collections, amounting to $232.23, come within 17 cents of being double those of last year, showing that the appeal on behalf of the current expenses of Victoria College was not made to the District in vain. Those Circuits which had completed their Missionary lists give a pleasing exhibition of the continued and increasing liberality of our people towards the prince of benevolent institutions.

Our friends on the "Hamilton West" Circuit are continuing to notice in this respect. The amount raised for Missions is $1,472.45, against $1,026.38 of last year—showing an increase of $445.07 in their figures "ever grow less."

Two young men (from the Hullsville Circuit) who had acquitted themselves creditably before the Board of Examiners at London, passed the customary examination of the District Meeting satifactorily, and were recommended to the Conference to be received on trial as candidates for the Methodist ministry.

One interesting feature of the second day's meeting was the spirited manner in which several of the lay brethren advocated increased appropriations for the support of ministers and preachers. Those brethren seemed to have well considered the inspired text and equally inspired comments thereon, "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn."

D. V. Lucas,
Secretary.

Onondaga, May 26, 1869.

Elgin Circuit.—Rev. Mr. Savage.

Moved by A. Coleman, seconded by Bro. Merriman, and

Unanimously Resolved,—That according to the rules of Conference we are about to part with our much beloved Superintendent, the Rev. William Savage; therefore this Quarterly Board do hereby manifest their deep and heartfelt regret in parting with one whose labours have been so efficient amongst us, believing as we do that by the grace of God many have been brought under his ministry while amongrt us to a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. We would also acknowledge our gratitude to God for the peace, unity, prosperity, and good feeling which has existed and been made manifest by all under his charge, believing, as we do, that he has ever endeavoured to faithfully discharge his duty in the fear of God.

Resolved,—In view of these facts that this Board extend to him their best wishes for the prosperity of himself and family, and that he may finally have many souls as stars in the *crown* of his rejoicing.

A. C.

Delta, May, 15th, 1869.

Bond Head Circuit.

This Circuit, being formerly part of the Bradford Circuit, was organized by the Conference in 1868, and is situated in one of the best localities and finest agricultural settlements in our new Dominion, and forms one of the most compact Circuits in connection with the Conference. It contains six regular—besides a firm interesting week-night—appointments. The congregations have been generally large, with a marked increase during the year. Several conversions have taken place, and our membership greatly increased.

Our churches are plain and commodious; and our new brick parsonage, in course of erection in the village of Bond Head, when completed and furnished, will make a charming residence for our Superintendents in future. The present state of progression on this Circuit is in a great measure owing to the faithfulness of our beloved Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Aylsworth, and his colleague, brother John Scanlon; the former for his superior talents as a pastor and preacher, and his unequalled business habits, and the latter for his devotedness to the cause of Christ and earnest zeal for the salvation of souls,—whereby both have endeared themselves to the members on this Circuit, as well as to many other denominations with whom they have associated.

And now, as Conference rules forbid the Doctor's further stay amongst us, our earnest prayer is, that wherever his lot may be cast, both he and his partner in life may continue to enjoy the blessing of God, and also the favour and affection of our Christian people and the public generally. And while we submit to their departure, we earnestly invite our new Superintendent and family and his colleage, to come amongst us with our best wishes for their future prosperity and happiness; and also hope that their stay with us may not only be protracted, but marked with resulting benefits both to pastors and people, whereby many souls may be brought to a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

Yours respectfully,
T. A.

Bond Head, 5th June, 1869.

From the Huron Signal.

Nile, Dungannon Circuit.

The young people of this neighborhood, considering it a duty to manifest their gratitude to the Rev. Mr. Whiting, who is now soon to leave us, for his energy and zeal in their behalf during the past three years, met at his place on Friday evening last, and surprised him with a present of a handsome set of china-ware. Miss Ellis and Miss Lydia Morris being chosen to represent the company in the presentation. An appropriate address was read by Miss Morris, expressing their regret at his departure, and tendering the best wishes of all, for his future wellfare; to which he responded in a very feeling manner, expressing his sorrow at our separation, but at the same time directing their thoughts to the place where he sincerely hoped they would all meet where parting is unknown. All were deeply affected, particularly the younger members, who under his instrumentality have been lately led to give their hearts to the Saviour, after which the evening was pleasantly and profitably spent in singing the praises of God, quoting passages from the Scriptures, &c., until it was time to retire, when, after invoking the blessing and protection of God for the future, the happy company dispersed feeling well satisfied that a profitable evening had been spent. Mr. W. is a man who will long be remembered around the Nile, as he has endeared himself to all denomination by a zeal and determination in the cause of his Master, combined with a mildness and affability, that is seldom to be found.

May his new home be a pleasant and a happy one.

One that was present.

May 31st, 1869.

Cornwall Station.

The members of the Official Board of this Mission Station having had under consideration the probable removal of our beloved Pastot, rhe Rev. G. N. A. F. T. Dickson, to another sphere of labour at the approaching Conference, cannot permit his departure from us without expressing our high appreciation of his ministerial talents during the two years he has been labouring among us, and although his administration has not been marked by any great ingathering of souls into the Church, yet this Board desires to place on record its unanimous testimony to a faithfully preached Gospel, Christ has been exhibited as the only and all-sufficient Saviour, sinners have been exhorted to be reconciled to God, believers have been invited to go on unto perfection, the congregation has been largely increased, and altogether the cause of Methodism has greatly improved; while social and spiritual intercourse with other Churches has been accelerated by the Christian and gentlemanly deportment of our beloved Pastor and his dear family; and this Board feels confident that it regrets, can express the sentiments of the Methodist regret, can express the sentiments of the Methodist remaining with us for another year. And while we remaining with us for another year. And while we desire to offer our united prayers to Almighty God for the happiness and future usefulness of himself and his amiable partner and family, wherever their lot may be cast.

Signed on behalf of the Board.

James Cox,
Recording Steward.

Cornwall, May 28th, 1869

Aylmer Circuit, P. Q.

At the Quarterly Official Meeting of this Circuit, held on the 24th of May, it was moved by Mr. G. Taylor, and seconded by Mr. T. Parker, and

Resolved,—That this Quarterly Official Meeting cannot allow the Rev. J. B. Armstrong to retire from the Superintendency of this circuit without expressing its most cordial approval of his course, and its high appreciation of the Christian fidelity with which he has discharged all his ministerial labours, during his three years' residence amongst us.

This meeting, therefore, most heartily presents its best wishes to Mr. Armstrong and family and prays that the Great Head of the Church may continue to bless them in all the subsequent relations of life.

Resolved,—That the foregoing be sent to the *Christian Guardian* for publication.

G. O. Taylor,
Recording Steward.

May 24th, 1869.

Resolution of the Brantford District Meeting.

Moved by J Harris, seconded by Thos. S. Keough, and very cordially and

Unanimously Resolved,—That in view of the probable removal of the respected Chairman—Rev. Jno. Gemley—from the bounds of this District at the ensuing Conference, we cannot allow him to leave our midst without expressing our very high esteem for him personally, and our appreciation of the ability with which at all times he has conducted the deliberations of this District; and of the gentlemanly, fraternal and courteous manner with which he has, during the past three years' treated all the brethren of the District. And while we deeply regret the expected separation, we unite in our prayers that the special blessing of God may ever rest upon him and his family, and that he may be guided in all his future steps by a gracious Providence.

James Harris,
Secretary of District.

Father Sanderson.—The friends of the Rev. John Sanderson, superannuated Wesleyan Minister, of Peterborough, will be pleased to hear that he has been the recipient of a substantial expression of regard from his friends in the Peterborough Circuit and neighborhood. On the 18th of May ult., a donation was accorded him which, besides cheering the old man's heart and keeping green the regard of numerous friends, left him about $100 the richer. We consider that a minister who after being superannuated for eleven years, shall yet so live in the hearts of the people, has no small thing to be proud of. Such an expression is alike creditable to the Christian sympathies of the people and to the one who elicits them. We congratulate Father Sanderson on his work thus following him, and we hope he may long be spared amongst a people who appreciate his unassuming, consistent and Christian character.—*Peterborough Examiner.*

From the Christian Guardian.

Letter From Rev. Robert Corson.

Dear Doctor.—Will you give publicity to a little autobiography.

It is a little more than forty years since I was appointed to the Whitby Circuit. The Circuit embraced seven townships; I added two more. We had eighteen appointments that we attended once in two weeks. We had no chapels of our own. We held our quarterly meetings in a Baptist chapel. We found one hundred white members and two hundred Indians that were members of our Church. We preached to the latter by an interpreter. We had to pay at the rate of seven dollars per barrel for flour, and had five children, and received $212. This had to meet all our claims, children, table expenses, fuel, horse keep, and salary. Our friends built us a log parsonage and we were blest with a good revival. Our next increase the first year was 100. But a change has taken place for the better, and where we had one circuit, we have ten; instead of one Preacher, twenty occupy the ground we then tried to cultivate. We saw the fruit of our labours, but others have been successful. We labored without chapels, in school-houses and private houses. But at the present time they have some forty chaples. Our church members were then numbered by hundreds, now by thousands, and more than $3,000 has been raised for Missions the last year. There are some seventeen persons that were members of the church when I first commenced my labours on Whitby Circuit, that are living and are witnesses for Christ. They are aged and infirm and nine are widows.

As it relates to myself I am in the 77th year of my age, enjoy good health, preached more than 100 sermons, travelled more than 2,000 miles, read 33 books during the year. One of the last I read was the 2nd vol. to *Case and his Contemporaries*, by Carroll. I have great pleasure in recommending said book to our people.

I remain yours, as ever,
Robert Corson.

Cobourg, 29th May, 1869.

Napanee Circuit.—On Saturday evening, the 29th day of May last, a few of the friends of the Rev. Thomas Kelley, assembled at the residence of Mr. C. R. Perry, Napanee. After partaking of refreshments which were amply provided, it was moved and seconded, that William Caton, Esq., of Richmond should take the chair; upon the chairman taking his seat he said they were met together to do honour to one who had been labouring amongst them zealously for the past year, and he was pleased to see the respect manifested towards one, who was well worthy of the prayers and best wishes of his congregation, without saying anything more, he called upon Charles James, Esq., who said he had been requested by the company to perform a pleasing duty; that at the close of the Conference year, the friends of Mr. Kelley desired to express their appreciation of his zeal ability and firmness in the cause of truth and the church; and presented Mr. Kelley on behalf of the company and friends who had contributed a purse containing $75, as an earnest of the respect in which he was held as a faithful Christian and Pastor, and intimated to Mr. Kelley, that should the Conference in its wisdom, see fit to return him to the Circuit for another year, they would give him a hearty welcome, but if it should be otherwise ordered, Mr. Kelley would have the prayers of the members of the Church and his many friends in town; that prosperity might attend Speeches were made by [illegible] Mr. Kelley Williams, Perry, Russell and J. Allen, expressing their satisfaction with the proceedings of the evening.—*Com.*

Personal.—The Rev. W. J. Shaw, M. A., L L. B., who is about to leave Montreal for another field of labor, was, last evening, the recipient of a flattering testimonial from some of his friends in the Dorchester street Wesleyan Church. T. M. Bryson, Esq., on behalf of the contributors, presented him with a purse containing over two hundred dollars, at a social gathering at the residence of George Thompson, Esq., Peel street. The Rev. gentleman, a few evenings ago, received a similar mark of esteem from the St. Joseph street congregation. He carried with him the kindest regards and warmest wishes of these two churches, where he has labored for the past two years.—*Witness.*

Book-Steward's Notices.

JUST PUBLISHED.

At the Wesleyan Book Room, Toronto, a new edition of Wesley's Christian Perfection.

"Mr. Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection has been published, both in Europe and America; and thousands of precious souls have derived instruction and confirmation in the grace of God from a careful and diligent perusal of it. It has afforded a blessed light to the Christian in the midst of those dark doctrines which have long obscured the glory of the *perfect* Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great privilege of believers is clearly defined and proved in the light of demonstration; and the way in which it is to be obtained is made to appear so plain that he who runs may read.

"If the Gospel plan of salvation has made ample provision for the accomplishment of the great work of sanctification and perfect holiness; and if the promises of God our Saviour embrace such a blessed state, with what ardour should every Christian pursue it. To enjoy the clear and abiding evidence of perfect love casting out fear, where faith rests with unwavering assurance on the immutability of God's word and promise, is the surest and most perfect source of happiness on this side heaven.

"It is matter of encouragement and rejoicing, that many have lived and died the happy witnesses of this blessed doctrine, and many more are athirst for all the fulness of God. May this little book be made the instrument of leading thousands into this spiritual rest."

In pamphlet form 7 cents each, or 75 cents per dozen. Neatly bound in cloth, 20 cents each.

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The *fourth* edition of this admirable Book of Anthems will be ready in a few days, when all orders can be filled. "See, see, they come, a glorious army," is alone worth the price of the book. Price 30 cents each, or $3 per dozen.

JUST PUBLISHED.

At the Wesleyan Book Room, a new edition of the Theological Compend, containing a system of divinity, or a brief view of the evidences, doctrines, morals, and institutions of Christianity. Designed for the benefit of Families, Bible Classes, and Sunday Schools. By Rev. Amos Binney. Neatly bound in cloth 128 pages, 30 cents. Per mail, pre-paid 34 cents,