

"BEAUTIFUL AND BRIGHT."

OUR SABBATH SCHOOL PAPERS.

Attention is invited to the following publications, suitable for Presbyterian Schools:

SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN, GOLDEN HOURS FOR THE YOUNG, EARLY DAYS.

The first two are monthly, and Early Days twice a month. All are carefully edited and beautifully illustrated. The price of each is \$10.00 per 100 copies for the year. Specimen copies mailed to any address on application.

READY IN A FEW DAYS!

INTERNATIONAL SCHEME OF SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Specially prepared for Presbyterian Schools.

60 cents per 100 copies. Mailed free on receipt of price

PRESBYTERIAN PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.,
5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF ORDER

S. S. YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS.

This is a neat pamphlet of 24 pp. compiled by Mr. James Knowles Jr., Secretary Knox Church S. S., Toronto. It will admirably suit any such organization. Price, 10 cents; or \$6.00 per 100 copies.

PRESBYTERIAN PRINTING & PUB. CO.,
5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

Notes of the Week.

AT the recent semi-annual meeting of the directors of the Toronto Willard Tract Depository, the following resolution was adopted. Realizing the vast importance to be attached to the dissemination of pure literature, and desiring that every possible incentive be given to the work of tract distribution, the Depository shall hereafter supply tracts at an advance on cost simply sufficient to cover expenses of handling.

PROFESSOR CANDLISH is about to move in the Glasgow Free Presbytery an overture to the General Assembly asking that Court to explain the sense in which the Church understands the Westminster Confession. The formula of subscription for deacons was relaxed two or three years ago, but that for elders remains so rigid that many have refused to accept office under it. The movement of Professor Candlish is supposed to have reference to a Declaratory Act similar to those of the United and English Presbyterian Churches.

PRESIDENT MCCOSH lately remarked that he felt that his identification with America had cost him his old remembrance and esteem in literary circles at home: There are, he said, few who now remember me in my old country, which, though now far from it, I love more than ever. Nothing now written by me would excite any interest in Edinburgh, where a younger generation must do the work assigned them. I may have some little work to do in this country in philosophy, and in Princeton College, and then I must pass away and be forgotten. Dr. McCosh possesses the humility characteristic of true greatness.

THE death of Mrs. Henry Wood, the distinguished novelist, was recently announced. She was born in Worcestershire in 1820, and at an early age was married to Mr. Henry Wood, a gentleman connected with the shipping trade. She competed for the £100 prize offered by the Scottish Temperance League for the best temperance story. "Danbury House" gained the prize, and laid the foundation of her literary fame. The second prize was carried by Rev. David Macrae for a tale entitled "Dunvarlich." Mrs. Wood was a prolific writer, but her fame rests chiefly on "East Lynne" and "Mrs. Haliburton's Troubles." She was editor of the *Argosy*, a monthly magazine.

THE Judiciary Committee of one House of the Pennsylvania Legislature has adopted a report providing that absolute unanimity of the twelve jurymen shall no longer be necessary to secure a verdict, but

that two-thirds shall be sufficient to acquit or convict; and it is thought that a bill to that effect will pass. It has long been the impression that to require complete unanimity was to obstruct justice, and a change in the law in the direction proposed will put it out of the power of one or two cranks or corrupt men to interrupt the course of justice.

A CONTEMPORARY gives the following interesting information: A gentleman who has investigated the subject gives us some figures relative to the religious complexion of the present Congress, which, he says, are reliable. Of the 408 Senators, members and territorial delegates who compose Congress, seventy-two are Methodists, sixty-three Baptists, forty-one Episcopalians, thirty-seven Presbyterians, thirty-six Catholics, fifteen Unitarians, eight Lutherans, ten Christians (Campbellite), and two Quakers, making a total of 283 who are actively connected with some Church organization. This leaves 125 who either never belonged to any Church or have drifted out of such associations.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Philadelphia *Presbyterian* says: The Rev. Dr. Somerville, the college companion and bosom friend of Robert Murray McCheyne, has signalized his year of office by an extraordinary—and, for a man of his years, unprecedented—series of evangelistic journeys through the Highlands of Scotland. Dr. Somerville has visited almost all parts of the world as an evangelist, and has everywhere had immense audiences. But he says he never witnessed anything like the gatherings in the Highlands. Neither weather nor distance had any terrors for them. The Free Church is strong in the Highlands, and there is no doubt that this apostolic journey of the Moderator will do much to attach the men of the North to the Church of their choice.

THE impression is all but universal that the early spring will witness the outbreak of a great European war. France and Germany, to all appearance, will seek once more to decide by the sword which of them shall have possession of Alsace-Lorraine. For years France has been preparing, and is now eager for wiping out the utter collapse of her military strength that led to the inglorious surrender at Sedan and the siege of Paris. No great principle influences either Teuton or Celt to engage in deadly combat that is sure to spread sorrow, desolation and death in numberless homes. It seems equally certain that Russia will again start on her military march toward Constantinople. Other European Powers are certain to be dragged into the deadly struggle of the nations.

THE great difficulty, says the New York *Independent*, that will stand in the way of union between the Northern and Southern Presbyterians will not be the quarrel about political utterances, but the Negro question. The Northern Presbyterians in the South have an Atlantic Synod, with many coloured members. In the case of union these men would be distributed among the Synods of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The *Southern Presbyterian* warns its readers of this fact, and tells them that if they choose union, they choose their fellowship with Negroes. It suggests that the Southern Church establish an African Presbyterian Church, and so get rid of the difficulty; but that suggestion is absurd. No one would think of it. Not a few Northern Methodists acknowledge now that they made a mistake in dividing their Conference on the colour line.

THE other week the Toronto Ministerial Association called attention once more to the fact that the Roman Catholic authorities, whatever their income, were entirely exempt from taxation. Members of the association expressed their willingness to submit to pay their fair share of municipal rating did their fellow-citizens so desire, if the priesthood were asked to pay their quota. This position is reasonable. Archbishop Lynch, however, has come out with what a Scotchman would call a pawky rejoinder. The

plea of poverty is put in, and it is added that no certain annual income can be calculated on. If a serious effort were made, it might not be difficult to arrive at an approximately correct average of the annual receipts of Roman Catholic clergymen, whatever their position. Were the question of exemptions—not merely clerical, but all classes released from the first of civic duties, payment of taxes,—submitted to a plebiscite there would be an overwhelming vote favouring their abolition.

SOCIAL reforms are best promoted when individuals have the moral courage to dispense with customs that fashion has made inveterate. Fashion is impervious to reason, common sense and ridicule; but when here and there people are found with strength of will to resist, they will find that others are ready to follow their example. Defiance of tyrannous custom soon becomes easy when one or two resolute people are prepared to lead the way. The condemnation of funeral pomp and parade is well-nigh universal, but it remains as extravagant and unseemly as ever. At a recent funeral in Guelph, the *Mercury* informs us, the elders and managers of Knox Church attended in a body the funeral of the late Mr. Williamson, who died abroad, and whose remains were taken to Guelph for interment. There was no display of badges and crape at the funeral. Many sensible Christian people expressed their satisfaction at this omission of what they believe has become a vulgar and meaningless parade.

It has been remarked that during the recent election contests, especially the Provincial, ministers of various denominations took a more prominent part in the discussion of political matters than hitherto. Of the wisdom of this course there are marked differences of opinion. So long as a clergyman refrains from being an offensive partisan much need not be said. At the same time, if a minister does enter the political arena, it is on his own responsibility and subject to criticism. He speaks for himself, not for his denomination. Principal Grant has spoken out in manly, ringing words in condemnation of the crying abuses that have crept into Canadian politics, and laid down certain principles which ought to guide those who desire the progress and welfare of their country with which many belonging to both parties will agree. He has come down with severity on machine politics. It ought not to be overlooked that the machine, like water, can rise no higher than its source. If corrupt and unprincipled men run the organization, what can the machine be but corrupt and a plague spot, spreading moral contagion throughout the land?

THE movement by representative men in England, to repress the disgusting details in daily press reports of criminal court proceedings is defined in a circular containing the following: We respectfully suggest to all those who have control of the daily press the desirability of some combined action by which they may minimize, if they cannot wholly suppress, the details of the divorce cases and criminal trials. We are aware that the fear of publicity is one of the most powerful deterrents to the commission of crime, nor have we the least desire to shelter the misdeeds of offenders because of any position in society which they may occupy. But we have a strong conviction that the necessary publicity could be secured without the divulgence of details of a demoralizing character, and we have reason to fear that the full record of incidents in these cases ministers to diseased appetite, and produces unwholesome effects on many minds. We desire further to call attention to the inevitable evils which must result from thus familiarizing with vice the minds of tens of thousands of young persons of both sexes from whom in these days it is impossible to keep the daily newspapers. We are sure that a combined effort to keep the pages of the newspapers as free as possible from the stain of such impurities would be conducive to the public good.