

The Last Roll-Call.

Through the crowded ranks of the hospital,
Where the sick and the wounded lay,
Slowly, at night fall, the surgeon
Made his last slow round for the day.

And he paused a moment in silence
By a bed where a boyish face,
With a death-white look, and plainly,
Here will soon be an empty place.

How boy! how fast he is going!
He thought as he turned, when a clear
Unfaltering voice through the stillness,
Ringing out like a bell, called, "Here!"

"Ah, my boy, what is it you wish for?"
"Nothing," faintly the answer came
But with eyes all afloat with glory
I was answering to my name.

In the tranquil face of the soldier
There was never a doubt or a fear
"They were calling the roll in heaven,
I was only answering." Here

The soft, dim rays of the lamp lit
I'll draw on the dead boy's face,
In the morning the ranks were unbroken,
For another had taken his place.

Far away in God's beautiful heaven
They are calling the roll each day,
And some one slips into the places
Of the ones who are summoned away.

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TORONTO, FEBRUARY 16, 1884.

The New Year's Sabbath School Gathering, Montreal.

This is not only an occasion of thrilling interest to the thousands who witness it, but also one which attracts the attention of many of our people throughout the Dominion. The gathering this year has been fully up to those of former years in interest and attendance. The companies of children numbering 2,769, from eighteen Methodist Sabbath schools in and about the city, gathering at the St. James Street Church from all directions with banners and songs, and bright faces ruddy with the clear, cold air of our Canadian winter, is an inspiring spectacle to anyone. Upon the great mass of the French Roman Catholic majority about us, it must have a salutary impression in favour of Methodism. Rev. Dr. Douglas presided over the large assembly, the nineteenth time of doing so in twenty years. Excellent addresses were delivered by Rev. A. B. Chambers, LL.B., and Rev. W. Galbraith, LL.B. The singing was good

and inspiring, special credit being deserved by the French school which sang a French hymn, the chorus of which after each verso was given in English by the entire assembly. Cordial New Year's greetings were exchanged with the Presbyterian Sabbath-schools of the city assembled at the same hour in the Erskine Church. Hon. Senator Ferrier, now in his 85th year, the efficient and faithful superintendent of the St. James Street Church afternoon school, and probably the oldest Sabbath-school superintendent in the world, was introduced, and feelingly appealed to all present to meet him in heaven if the New Year were to be his last year on earth. Rev. W. English, of Granby, formerly a missionary in Africa and in the West Indies, was introduced. His New Year's greetings were reciprocated by the usual "The same to you," shouted by more than 2,000 voices. Mr. J. J. MacLaren, Q. C., the highly esteemed secretary, and the superintendent of the Dominion Square school, announced the missionary returns of collections by the schools as follows: St. James Street, morning, \$504.87, afternoon, \$724.12. St. Lawrence, \$100.15. Desrivieres, morning, \$25. afternoon, \$68.12. Ottawa Street, \$132.05. Mill Street, \$175.1. East End, \$185.95. Dominion Square, \$293.85. West End, \$288.15. Sherbrooke Street, \$111.71. Point St. Charles, morning, \$137.11, afternoon, \$213.95. Douglas, \$126.09. St. Henri, \$20. Cote St. Paul, \$113. St. Lambert, \$11. French, \$102.82. Total, \$3,304.91, a slight decrease from last year. These returns from year to year may, perhaps, serve as a pulse of the financial vitality of this commercial metropolis of Canada. *Guardian.*

Review of Books for Winnowed List.

Histor Trustworthy's Royalty. This book presents a succession of life-like pictures in a style of fascinating simplicity. It gives valuable hints and encouragements to those who are providentially called to foster and train the orphaned and homeless, and shows how a conscientiously persistent devotion to duty ensures at last the "well done" of both earth and heaven. — *Rev. Wm. HANSFORD.*

Scriptures and Crosses. This book is written in an easy, graceful style. The second coming of Christ is kept steadily before the mind in its teaching. Its characters are all natural and well sustained except that of "Maggie," which is overdrawn, sentiments being put into her mouth and actions ascribed to her altogether out of keeping with her age. The way of salvation is not very clearly defined. But vices are exposed and condemned, the Bible exalted as the sole standard of right, and children encouraged to adopt good principles and fear the Lord. — *Rev. G. N. A. F. T. DICKSON.*

The book entitled "How Could He Escape?" is a deeply interesting narrative of a young man brought up by a widowed mother in industry, honour, and honesty; but without spiritual religion. He was taught to be self-reliant, but not God-reliant. He became the victim of intemperance; tried, without grace, to overcome the evil habit; failed, and died a miserable death; and left his misguided mother

to sink in the turgid waves of hopeless sorrow. — *Rev. Wm. GALBRAITH.*

The book entitled "All for Money" I have read carefully over, and have enjoyed its perusal very much. It is one of the volumes issued by the National Temperance Publishing House, written in the narrative style. I suppose it is principally fiction, yet many useful lessons may be learned from it. It shows the connection between the love of money and the liquor traffic, and strikes effectual blows against both these evils. It should find a place in every well-provisioned Sabbath-school. I most heartily commend it as a book that will surely be read, and read with profit. — *Rev. ALFRED ANDREWS.*

Secret of Victory. This is an excellent book, illustrating the danger of learning to drink, the weakness of man, the power of grace, and the efficacy of prayer. — *Rev. T. M. CAMPBELL.*

The Little Camp. A good, useful book. — *Rev. H. F. BLAND.*

Ten Cents. I beg to say that for pleasant family reading it is a book suitable for both young and old; being just in its conceptions, natural in its delineations of character, stimulating in its tone, and wholesome in its material. — *Rev. THOS. CUTLER.*

Book Notices.

The Sunday School Times. John D. Wattle, Philadelphia. 16 pp. weekly. \$2 a year. This is the best S. S. paper in the world far ahead, we think, of the *S. S. Chronicle* of London, Eng. It is a remarkable illustration of the magnitude of the Sunday-school interest, that many of the best Biblical scholars of Europe and America contribute to its pages.

Dr. Tourjée's Musical Herald—the ablest periodical of its class in the country—appears in a new dress with the opening of the year. Every musical family will be pleased and profited with its monthly issues. \$1 a year. Published by the Musical Herald Co., Franklin Sq., Boston.

Tessa Wadsworth's Discipline. By Jennie M. Drinkwater. Pp. 411. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

The name of the Carter Brothers on the title of a book is a guarantee of first-class mechanical execution and unimpeachable religious teachings. No house that we know has a better catalogue of wholesome, interesting, and instructive literature, suitable for either home or school. Of this class the volume before us is an example. It is a love story, it is true, but a story of the love that ennobles and purifies and blesses both the one who gives and the one who receives. It is written in vigorous and animated style, and the characters are evidently painted from real life.

Fifteen; or, Lydia's Happiness. By Mrs. Nathaniel Concklin (Jennie M. Drinkwater). Pp. 368. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers; Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

This is not a story of the "Fifteen Puzzle," but of a young girl whose fifteenth birthday opens with the opening chapter of the book. It will be highly appreciated by all girls from fifteen to fifty. They will follow with

eager interest the fortunes of the gentle heroine, and may learn noble lessons how to make life grand and beautiful and true.

Rue's Helps. By Jennie M. Drinkwater. Pp. 386. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers; Toronto: William Briggs.

In this book the accomplished author of "Tessa Wadsworth's Discipline" maintains the high standard of that admirable story. One of the most commendable features of the present book is, that it will greatly tend to bring the young into sympathy with foreign missionary work—than which nothing has a more broadening and liberalizing influence on the mind, or more helps to lift one out of the rut of the narrow cares and little thoughts of everyday life. An excellent book for Sunday-schools.

Queen Victoria Her Girlhood and Womanhood, is the title of a very neat volume, brought out by Edward Marston, published by Dawson Bros., Montreal, and on sale at the Methodist Book-Room, Toronto.

The gifted authoress, Grace Greenwood, has done ample justice to her royal subject. Though an American of the most pronounced Republican type—and not for a moment hesitating to avow it—yet she draws a very beautiful and touching picture of the inner as well as the public life of the Queen. Her graphic portrayal of the fidelity and good sense of the Duchess of Kent in her efforts to prepare the young Princess for her subsequent and important station, is additional proof of the important relation sustained by mothers. I would that a copy of it were in the hands of every Canadian, old and young, as I am certain that the reading of it would be an effectual antidote to a desire for annexation, and increase our loyalty to the motherland. — *Com.*

SOME of the poems in this number appeared in the second edition of the last number of *Pleasant Hours*. In consequence of an urgent and unexpected demand for an increased number of that paper, a second edition had to be prepared for the press at a very short notice. To meet this necessity a part of the matter had to be transposed from HOME AND SCHOOL. We do not anticipate that such an event will occur again. The matter for each paper is prepared entirely distinct from the other, and it is not designed that anything which appears in the one should appear in the other.

The sixth annual meeting of the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union was held in Ottawa on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of October last. The minutes of the meeting, with report of addresses, reports, etc., are now before us in a well-printed pamphlet. The work of this Society is evidently carried on with a great deal of energy and with an encouraging amount of success. We wish its members all encouragement in their work of faith and labour of love, even though some who ought to know better, are inclined to look upon such proceedings as unwomanly and injurious. Women suffer most from intemperance; it is but natural that they should take a peculiarly active hand in trying to put the evil down. — *Globe.*