

much to the good of the Mission cause, or to give effect to any action on the part of the Presbytery, or the appointment of a Superintendent of Missions. We call him by this name, though you suspect it is not happily chosen, because we know not what other name to substitute for it, nor can we understand how persons take "alarm" at the name, or for any other reason opposition should be made to an office which involves, as you justly say, no prelatial powers, and which you have clearly shewn to be essentially necessary from our peculiar circumstances. We hope that no such partial opposition will discourage the Synod, though it has failed in its attempts, as yet, to fill up this office, from again renewing these efforts. The most happy results, we are persuaded, would accrue to the Mission cause, from the appointment to this office, of an individual distinguished by zeal, piety and talents. He could communicate to Presbyteries accurate statistics respecting the Mission Field within their bounds—assist them in the adoption of some systematic plan, both for the supply of Missionary labourers, and the procuring of funds, and exercise a watchful superintendence over the whole field.

The insertion, if you judge it expedient, of the above imperfect remarks, by one who, though now removed from the scene of labour in Canada, feels the most deep interest in the welfare and progress of the Church in that land with which he is connected, will oblige,

Yours truly, A. M.

(FOR THE RECORD.)

#### PRACTICAL HINTS.

DEAR SIR,—

Having observed with interest and pleasure the progress made in various departments of Christian enterprise, during these few years past, by the Presbyterian Church of Canada; and, sensible to some extent of what remains yet to be done, in order to her wellbeing and advancement; may I trouble you with a few lines, expressive of views relative to certain matters, which, if duly attended to, would, we apprehend, materially help to advance the best interests of the Redeemer's cause, throughout the length and breadth of the land.

It is admitted on all hands that Sabbath Schools form a most effective agency for the accomplishment of what is good. It is pleasing to notice the number of such institutions with which the land is studded. There are places, however, where such nurseries of the Church have not as yet been set up. We would earnestly invite parties in such circumstances, even though there is no congregation in the immediate neighbourhood, to begin a Sabbath School. Let a prudent and pious person begin with 6, 8, or 10 children, and soon the numbers will increase, and good results will follow. Let suitable tracts and books be introduced with the opening of the School. Such publications are most plentiful and extremely cheap now. And, Mr. Editor, would it not be a good plan to get Missionary boxes into all our Sabbath Schools? Undoubtedly it would; not so much for the sake of getting money for missionary purposes, as for implanting and deepening in the breasts of the young, the duty and privilege of giving to the cause of Christ. We would be very glad to receive little contributions from this and that and the other Sabbath School, as regularly as from congregations. The Sabbath School children of Scotland are doing wonders now. They can buy Missionary Ships, and send them out to heathen lands, and they can provide for Missionaries of their own. They have their own Records for their missionary letters and other intelligence. And why not? Young people as well as old are members of the Kingdom of Christ, and as such are expected to take a part in the good cause. Samuel, Josiah and Timothy whilst young, were useful in the Lord's vineyard. Very glad would we be to see a column of your

Record filled from time to time with "Juvenile collections." We noticed with pleasure, lately, that you set apart a corner of your paper for the young; we trust Teachers and Missionaries and Ministers will send you now and again, short, but instructive, paragraphs for the same.

Of Bible-classes we would say a word. Their utility cannot for a moment be doubted. We would call them *Congregational Colleges*, where Theology is taught from the grand text-book—the Bible. Wherever there is a pastor there is usually a little flock of this kind, but at country stations without pastors, would it not be well for some friend of the young to collect together this class of the congregation, and impart to them what he knows himself, and what he may draw from other sources, and especially the water of life. And as in the Sabbath School, so in the Bible class-room, we think the indispensable appendages of a missionary box, and a well selected library should be placed.

We next allude to Young Men's Congregational prayer-meetings. This is an excellent way and place for preparing Sabbath School Teachers, Missionaries and Ministers. We are not aware of the existence of any in connection with our Church. We think in the most of the congregations there might be one. Four, eight or twelve young men might meet together once a week for reading the Scriptures and conference thereon, and for praying for the blessing of the Lord upon their pastor's ministrations, for the welfare of their own congregation, and for the spread of the gospel throughout all lands. To make such a meeting more interesting, missionary intelligence might be read once a month.—We remember with pleasure the time thus spent in days gone by. Some of the members of our little assembly are now occupying spheres of usefulness and importance, three are Students of the Free Church, one sailed lately as a missionary to India, and another was honoured recently, by his pen, to bear a noble testimony for the sanctity of the Sabbath, and lead the minds of some high in power to decide on measures for the furtherance thereof. It would gladden the Lord's people in the land, to see the young men thus coming forward to prepare themselves for offices and engagements, attention to which, at the present time, the world and the church alike demand.

We would advert next for a moment to Congregational Libraries. This is an excellent means of doing good. We believe that it is in the power of every congregation in the Church to procure for itself a nice, well-selected library.—Thirty excellent volumes can now be had for five pounds. And would it not be a good plan, with a view to augment a library, for every member and adherent in a congregation to bring some good book which he has already read, and place it on the library shelf for the benefit of others.—What delightful opportunities for reading have parties, especially in the country, in the long winter nights, and aged people in the long summer days! We look upon every one who seeks to promote rich, wholesome reading, as a benefactor to his church and to his country.

In addition to the above, Mr. Editor, we might allude now very briefly to one or two other matters, though not of such importance, touching the welfare of our Church. We have often remarked in our travels, that were our friends in the country to pay a little more attention to what may be called the external state and appearance of their places of worship, the pleasure and comfort, both of speaker and hearers, would be greatly promoted. For the sake of appearance, and for the good of the building itself, we would recommend that all Frame-Churches be neatly painted outside, and the inside walls and roof white-washed every third or fourth season. Neat, substantial fences should be fixed around the building, painted like the Church. We have sometimes been grieved, for want of this, to see the cattle of the fields treading upon, and even tearing up, the turf of the graves of the dead. We would re-

commended, also, that trees and shrubbery be planted wherever this can be done. Such adornments of nature tend to produce very pleasing associations, in keeping with the hallowed exercises of the sanctuary; moreover, they afford a cool refreshing shade from the heat of summer.

We must not omit to mention another desideratum, namely, a session house in connection with the church, the want of which, is all but universal in the country. Missionaries and ministers travelling, say 5 or 8 miles on a summer day, have usually to step out of the waggon into the pulpit, without, perhaps, getting the dust off their clothes, or quenching their thirst with a cup of cold water; or, should it be winter, without resting and warming themselves a little. Those who enter that solemn place—the pulpit—are the better of getting a little time to themselves to compose their minds, in view of the important services before them. And, besides, such a place would be most suitable for prayer or session meetings, and Bible-classes. We earnestly request the attention of friends in the country to this matter. They are neither stinted for room, nor for materials. How easy would it be to have such a place built at the end of every church, having a door communicating with the pulpit.—It need not be large, say 15 or 18 feet square, and as for furniture, somewhat less than what the woman of Shunem kindly prepared for the Prophet of the Lord, will suffice. (2 Kings iv. 10.)

Ere we close, Mr. Editor, we would further remark, that people residing in the country, should endeavour by all means to prevent dogs from entering the place of worship. This could be easily done. Preachers are sometimes very much disturbed with them. When they do come to the church let them be attached to the wheels outside, but what is better let them be retained at home.

Lastly, we have frequently noticed that some come to the church without a Bible or Testament. This we regret very much. Bibles are extremely cheap now. Excellent Testaments with Psalms can be had for seven pence half-penny, and the whole Bible with Psalms for one shilling and threepence. Every one, then, should be provided with a copy of the Scriptures, and as regularly bring his Bible to Church, as his hat upon his head.

We sincerely hope no one will think us too minute and fastidious. We are not so. We feel persuaded that were the above "hints" attended to, much benefit would be the result. Does not the highest authority enjoin upon us the command, "Let all things be done decently and in order." We see from the last six chapters of the book of Exodus, the wonderful condescension and kindness of Jehovah, in revealing to Moses, his servant, for the benefit of the children of Israel, all that pertained to the Tabernacle, as regards its materials, its shape, size, &c., the vessels thereof, the furniture thereof; in short, every thing about it, from the golden ark and mercy-seat, down to the very pins and cords, and anointing oil.

I remain,

Yours most sincerely, &c.

#### SABBATH OBSERVANCE—POST OFFICE.

To the Editor of the Record.

SIR,—

The agitation on the important question of the Sabbath progresses. Though there be not much heating on the surface of society throughout our Province, there is a deep undercurrent flowing on secretly and silently, which will eventually shew itself. It is cheering to notice that a cause so closely identified with the glory of God and the good of man, is beginning to bulk more largely in the public eye, and to engage the hearty interest and the harmonious efforts of the friends of humanity and religion. Upwards of a year has now elapsed since an Association