

**S. S. VACATIONS.**—Some Sunday Schools close some months in winter, and some close in the hot months of summer. It is never that the children don't come: but the teachers get "snow-bound," or get "exhausted" with the heat, or some other good reason of that kind. Now that the search-light of religious opinion is getting turned that way, these difficulties are losing all their force, and teachers find their schools can be kept open all the year!

**LOCK, BOYS!**—J. J. Kelso, of Toronto, has been appointed Government "Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children." A good man. Now, when a child is cruelly treated by its drunken and profligate parents, there is somebody with authority to interfere. We hope too, he may introduce what the Municipalities have power to enact—the "Nine o'clock Bell," to warn all children under fifteen, unattended, to scurry home, if they would avoid arrest.

**"A STEEPLE-HOUSE,"** so the old Quaker, George Fox, called churches: and Richard Carlile, would have us believe that a spire was but a "survival" of the fire-worship of our old ancestors—a flame rising upward! We shall never defend the "steeple," nor the debt that generally decorates it! It is the faithful warning of the pulpit we are watching and praying for. What kind of a gravelly bottom the Ohio church was built on we don't know: but the *Congregationalist* tells us:—

An Ohio church is reported in this year's narrative of the state of religion as having sold its parsonage and put the proceeds into a steeple. Whether the minister is expected to live in the steeple is not stated, and the state of religion indicated by this move is left to be inferred.

**HIT IT HARD!**—We work to awaken that holy hatred of the rum curse such as the tall, gaunt Abraham Lincoln had when he landed on a wharf at New Orleans. He saw a mulatto girl hoisted up on an auction block for sale. He turned to his few companions on the dock and said: "Boys, so help me God, if I can ever hit that thing I'll hit it hard." He did hit it a blow that sent it into eternity—its own place. Train up your boys with that feeling: I'll hit the decanter hard, I'll hit the whiskey hard, I'll hit the enemy of Christ and my country with all the strength God imparts to me."—*Dr. Cuyler.*

**THE "YEAR-BOOK."**—The Year-Book will be out at the end of the month. It will scarcely be believed that some churches delayed three, four and five months last year, after the book was out, before ordering their parcels! Let the orders (with the money—one-half the actual cost of production) come in this month, and get your parcels in September! Will some interested former reader of the Year-Book in each church, see that the deacons—or whoever should act, attends to this matter? Our churches are not half democratic enough; too much in the habit of appointing officials, and leaving them to act or not, as if they were "the church."

**THE NEW "JOHN WILLIAMS."**—The London Missionary Society, in view of the expansion of its work in the islands of Pacific Ocean, has at length decided to build a steamer to take the place of the *John Williams*. The new mission in New Guinea promises, it is said, to be more extensive and important than all the other South Sea missions combined. It extends over 1,000 miles of coast, with seventy native evangelists from the different groups. Navigation in this region is difficult, and a vessel with full steam-power is deemed essential. It is proposed to build a vessel which will cost about \$80,000.—*Faithful Witness.*

**THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.**—We have tried to reserve some space for the Great Endeavor Convention at Montreal. Not that all our readers have not already seen much more than we can give them; but we could not omit so great an occasion, and in our pages it has a more historical setting than in the necessarily-ephemeral columns of a newspaper. It may well and often happen that in years to come, gray and staid fathers and mothers may peruse, in some bound volume of the *INDEPENDENT*, the very report of this month, and say, "When we were young, I was at that Convention!"

**THE PROVIDENT FUND.**—There is "a touch of kindness" that would make the whole church "kin," if it were only practised more. Instead of giving your minister a fur coat, or some grand candelabra for his parlor, (and then asking him afterward, "if he has sent an account of it yet, to the *INDEPENDENT*!") just write to Mr. Thos. Moodie, 30 St. John