

Our Mission Union,

ISSUED ON THE FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Subscription Rates, per year, (post paid).

Single Copy, 50 cts.; Six Copies, \$2.50; Ten Copies, \$3.50; Twenty-five Copies, \$7.50; Fifty Copies, \$12.50; One Hundred Copies, \$22.00; Five Hundred Copies, \$100.00.

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Original articles intended for insertion in the paper, should be addressed to the Editor at same place.

salaries Secretaries, now 388. Then 13 Associations reported Bible classes, and 47 reported prayer meetings. Now over 400 report Bible classes, and over 600 report prayer meetings.

Add to this general prosperity the deep spiritual interest which has prevailed in many Associations, resulting in the conversion of many young men, and there is reason for sincere thanksgiving to God.

In Canada there are some 40 Associations, owning real estate valued at \$316,000. There are 17 General Secretaries, 4 Assistant Secretaries, and 2 Railroad Secretaries.

The recent Convention of Associations of Ontario and Quebec, held at Peterborough, while not so largely attended as some previous gatherings, will doubtless result in arousing the delegates to renewed labors in this most important branch of the Church's work.

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

By REV. JOHN McEWEN, Secretary S.S. Association of Canada.

The Temple is built. The Divine glory has crowned the undertaking with gracious approval. The wisdom of Solomon has been illustrated by his solution of the hard sayings, riddles, and dark questions proposed by the Queen of Sheba,—intended more to test the King than to increase her own knowledge and wisdom—and the result has exceeded all she had conceived. All this having passed in review—call to mind with what skill Jesus reproves the captious spirit of the Pharisees of every age by this incident (Matt. xii. 42). "Behold a greater than Solomon is here."

[Nov. 16.] **Solomon's Sin.** [1 Kings 11: 4-13.]

He has reigned about forty years. The commencement opened grandly for the honour of God and the best interests of Israel. 1 Kings iii. 5-15.

The young king asked for wisdom, not wealth.—and God gave him both. He is now getting into his latter days, and his prosperity and luxury has made him passive and pliant; and he becomes an easy prey to the clamors of his incogruous and unhallowed Harem. This is the constitutional cancer of ancient and modern oriental rulers.

There are instructive resemblances and contrasts between

THE FATHER, DAVID, AND HIS SON, SOLOMON.

1. Both came to the throne early in life. 2. Both were enthroned by Divine decision and approval. 3. Both entered on

their reign with promise of securing the highest ends of God dwelling in the midst of Israel. 4. As prosperity came, in material success and outward splendor, both fell into the sin that doth easily beset eastern monarchs—and God's law was dishonored—in two ways—marrying heathen women, and multiplying wives, Deut. xvii. 17-20; vii. 1-4. The foundation institution of race life was set aside, and swift and prolonged punishment followed. 5 The father trampled on the second table of the law. Commandments 10th, 7th and 6th were set aside—by COVETOUSNESS, ADULTERY, MURDER—in this order of development. James i. 14, 15. The son set the second commandment of the first table at naught. In both cases, and in this as in all cases, the iniquities of the fathers visit the children.

There is no ground for believing that Solomon became an idolater, in the strict sense of that term; but by a false liberalism he tolerated and abetted the sin, which, in the sight of God, was treasonable. Temples to the abominations of Ashtoreth, Milcom, Chemosh, and Moloch, were built in Jerusalem for his wives, who burned incense to their gods. Ponder well verses 9-11. "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4: 23.

[Nov. 23.] **Proverbs of Solomon.** [Prov. 1: 1-16.]

THE ORGANIC FACT, THOUGHT, OR INDWELLING LIFE OF THE BIBLE IS RELIGION, GOD, HIS SON, THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Hence the incident, biography, history, law, doctrine, &c., constitute the setting of RELIGIOUS LIFE.

There is helpfulness in regarding the Song of Solomon as the product of his early life—the Book of Proverbs as the conclusions of his mature life—and the Book of Ecclesiastes as the lament of later days.

These Lessons give examples of wisdom from its earthly and heavenly side—and Jesus is the source and embodiment of the highest wisdom of God to men.

"PROVERBS ARE THE SALT PITS

of a nation, treasured preservatives against corruption," "Little Gospels," condensed statements of truth everywhere and always helpful to the person reverencing and obeying God.

GET WISDOM.

What is wisdom? Knowledge obtained in the natural sphere of life—or revealed by God and received by us—as connected with our salvation. Knowledge applied to the best and highest ends of life—toward God and men. A clear judgment between the right and the wrong, the true and the false of life, with an undying purpose to do the right, conferring not with flesh and blood.

THE MOTTO OF THIS BOOK OF PROVERBS IS—

The fear of the Lord is the beginning, middle, and the end of wisdom. The highest, the holiest, the most manifold, the deepest and the most Divine wisdom known to men and angels is—God in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. The lesson before us is, at this stage of the Divine unfolding in history a grand illustration.

OUR WATCHWORDS.

Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.