

## PRESENTATION.

During the following week, the scholars attending this Sabbath School gave an additional token of their liberality by presenting to their librarian, Mr. Forbes, a handsome dressing-case. The gift was well merited, Mr. Forbes having, for the past seven years, faithfully devoted himself to the management of the library and other Sabbath School work. Testimonials of this kind are usually given when the receiver records his resignation of the office held by him; but Mr. Forbes continues to hold the position of librarian, and still labours in it with a zeal in no way lessened by the encouragement he has lately received from those whom he serves.

THE Rev. George M. Grant is at present engaged in the publication of a book on the great North-West, recently visited by him. A book from the pen of the minister of St. Matthew's, Halifax, will command many readers, not only throughout the Dominion of Canada, but also in Europe and the United States.

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## Notes of the Month.

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In the province of New Brunswick there is considerable excitement over School affairs. The present law has been in operation over a year, and, in places where it has been fairly tested, it has undoubtedly been successful in establishing good schools. There is still, however, great opposition to it in some quarters. According to law, the people in the country and country villages within their own districts, have the power to say that there shall be no assessment for schools. In some instances they have done so. With reference to them we would have little to say, if they had provided themselves with good schools, supported and maintained by subscription or tuition-fees. It is disgraceful beyond measure to know that, in one or two places where you would expect better things, there are no common schools to which the people can send their children. There are weak points in the law, and it is only by trying it that they will become known. There will probably be some improvements made during the sitting of the next session of the Legislature.

The winter season, so far, has been exceedingly cold and stormy in these Provinces. Railways have been blocked up in every direction. Correspondents have abused railway officials, and the public generally have not been able to understand why the mails should, in some instances, be allowed to remain for any length of time in a train snowed up, when a little extra expense would lead them quickly to their destination by teams. Between Halifax and St. John, the mails on one occasion were eight days on the road. It is doubtful if such a thing was ever known in the days of stage-coaching.

Within the last two years or so, we have had, on this continent, two or three of the largest and most destructive fires ever known. Besides them, there is scarcely a week that passes without its report of fires, with more or less destruction of property. So many and great have they become that Insurance Companies have increased their rates.

The Dominion Parliament will meet on the 5th of March. The Local Assemblies in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will meet about the same time. The leaders are preparing for work.

In England there has been great excitement over the late appointment of Select Preacher in the University of Oxford. Dean Stanley, of Westminster Abbey, was chosen by a large majority. The objection raised to him was his heterodoxy. Dean Goulbourn, who has held for a time a similar position in the same University, is not willing to retain it with him on this account. He was right to do all in his power to keep him out of it, and give the prominent position to one after his own mind and way of thinking, but it is not so clear what special good he can do the church by resigning the position he holds. Let him remain where he is, and do his best next year to keep a similar man out. His own individual vote may do it.

Mr. Gladstone, in a recent lecture before the students of Liverpool college, spoke very decidedly against the theory which Dr. Strauss has attempted to establish, that modern thought was supplanting Christianity, and that there is no God. Besides being a great politician, he has found time to write on some of the theological questions of the day. There have been rumours to the effect that he was in heart a Roman Catholic, and had actually partaken of the Sacrament of the Church. There is no foundation, however, for such reports, as he has publicly stated.

On the 9th January, Napoleon III., ex-Emperor of France, expired in Chislehurst. He had shortly before undergone a severe