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Blank schedule for half yearly claims and annual returns have been sent this week to the Presbytery Com'rs of Home Missions and Augmentation, Western Section. Should any convenor fail to receive them in due time, he is asked to notify Rev. Dr. Somerville, Owen Sound the secretary of the Assembly's Committee on Home Missions and Augmentation

The city papers have given full reports of the successful celebration by Knox church of its jubilee anniversary. In a short article dealing with the subject The Journal says: Knox church and congregation have played an important part in the public and private life of the community. It is fitting therefore that each of the ministers should have been a leader of thought. Dr. Wardrope, Professor William McLaren, Rev. F. W. Farries, Professor James Ballantyne, and the present pastor, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, are all men of distinction. In this not only Knox church but Ottawa is fortunate. They have helped to raise the tone of society to a higher level and to make good living and upright conduct respected.

We had thought Spain was about taking a step forward, but it appears the time of her awakening has not yet arrived. The latest educational move of her hierarchy looks little like any reform in her mediaeval methods. The new catechism recently introduced into the public schools of Madrid teaches that the faithful ones must not read, buy sell or print any newspaper not sanctioned by the priests; that a faithful Catholic may not become a member of any lodge of Freemasons; that it is not lawful to send any child to any institution of learning founded by English or Americans in Spain and that no Catholic family may employ a Protestant or a Jew either as physician or as servant. One question, "Who is the father of philanthropy?" is answered curtly by "The devil." This does not agree with the Bible characterization of the ruler of darkness.

## AUSTRALIAN BASIS OF UNION.

It is interesting in view of the discussion now going on between committees representing the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in Canada to note a similar discussion in the churches of Australia. The same denominations there are considering the question of organic union, and the Presbyterian church has made such progress that the last general assembly adopted a statement of doctrine, which has since been submitted to the Congregational and Methodist churches as a basis of discussion looking toward organic work. This statement, as approved by the general assembly of the Presbyterian church, is as follows:

"(1) That the supreme and full revelation of God to man is the Lord Jesus Christ; that the supreme authority in doctrine and duty is the Holy Spirit, speaking in the Old and New Testaments.

"(2) That God is personal, transcendent and omniscient.

"(3) That the God head is essentially triune

"(4) That Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh and is truly God and truly man.

"(5) That God is love and that His love is holy and sovereign.

"(6) That the Divine Fatherhood expresses an eternal relationship, which has been revealed most clearly by Jesus Christ, through whom the children of men come into the possession of the spirit and the privileges of sonship.

"(7) That sin is universal in the human race, and implies lawlessness and alienation from God, and unless repented of and forgiven involves death eternal.

"(8) That salvation is wholly of God having the Father as its source, Jesus Christ as the mediator, and the Holy Spirit as its agent, and is appropriated by faith.

"(9) That the active and passive obedience in the life and death of Jesus Christ is vicarious and propitiatory.

### THE CHURCH

"(1) That Christ instituted a church upon earth, of which his people are the members.

"(2) That Jesus Christ is the Supreme Head of the Church, and that He calls men to the ministry of teaching and ruling.

"(3) That the people under the guidance of the spirit of Christ, recognize and choose those whom He calls and who are thereupon in churches already constituted officially set apart by those in office.

"(4) That the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are effectual means of grace appointed by Christ and should be regularly and orderly celebrated.

"(5) That the efficacy of the sacraments does not proceed from any virtue in the mere administration of the elements or in him who administers them but depends upon the spiritual presence of Christ with believing participants.

"(6) That those who administer the sacraments have no priestly function save that which is shared in by all believers."

The December number of The Lord's Day Alliance contains, among others, good portraits of the late Principal Caven and of the Hon. E. H. Bronson, of this city.

## THE AMERICAN REIGN OF LAW- LESSNESS

"Native Americans are preeminently the man-killers of the world," declares the Cleveland Plain Dealer in its remarks upon S. S. McClure's article in McClure's Magazine, wherein is pointed out the alarming increase of lawlessness of this country. In the United States last year, with a population of about 80,000,000 of people, there were 8,970 murders. In 1881, when there were 51,300,000 inhabitants, there were but 1,260 crimes of this class. Since 1881 there have been 129,000 homicides in the United States. Comparing the crimes with the number of the population, we find that in 1881 there was one murder for each 40,000 of population, while in 1903 there was one murder for each 8,900 of the population. These figures originally appeared in the Chicago Tribune and include all deaths by violence reported in the newspapers of the various States and Territories.

Foreigners have often been held responsible for the increase of violence, but Mr. McClure says that the homicide rate of no European country except Russia is as high as in the United States and some States in which native blood is the purest are particularly given to crimes of violence. Records show that there is far less crime in European cities than in American cities. London, with a population of 6,500,000 people, had only 54 murders last year. Every culprit was taken in by the police. Nine were sentenced to be hanged, 4 committed suicide and the rest were sent to prison. During the same time, according to the Chicago News, Chicago, with about one-fifth the population, had 128 murders. In 18 of the cases the murderers were killed at the time of the crime, 4 were shot by officers in making the arrests, leaving 106 cases for the police to handle. Out of these only 34 convictions were had; in 19 cases no arrests were made; in 53 cases the arrests did not result in conviction. Our failure to search out and punish crime is shown by the fact that in the United States, in 1903, with 8,970 homicides, there were only 124 legal executions, or 1 execution to 71 homicides.

Mr. McClure would start a crusade for "a new righteousness which shall become a new passion—the love of country." The result, he thinks, will be "obedience to the law; and the briber, and the grafter, and the traitor who steals from his neighbors and pollutes the law will be unable to endure the scorn of his fellows." In commenting on the conditions which contribute towards this reign of lawlessness, the writer, attributes the increase largely to misuse in city and state affairs. "Can a body of policemen," he asks, "engaged in blackmail, persecution, and in shielding lawbreakers make a community law abiding? Can a body of policemen engaged in criminal practices prevent others from committing crimes? Can a board of aldermen who for private gain combine to lull a city