

are sure to add much to their general comfort and well-being.

The Society, though a congregational one, is so only as far as the toil of collecting the money and conducting the operations is concerned. Of the 78 families visited and relieved 19 only are Presbyterians, the greater number belonging to the Church of England, though Baptists, Methodists, and Roman Catholics, are also fairly represented. We are glad, also, to see in the list of subscribers the names of many belonging to the Church of England, and other denominations.

The past year has been one of great success, which the Report suitably and gratefully acknowledges. We wish the ladies another year of the same description, and cordially commend their case to the sympathies and support of the public.—*Halifax Guardian*.

THE BIBLE.—The religion of the Bible, though having its earthly birth in the tent of a fugitive Hebrew, and reaching its maturity in the cottage of a peasant of Nazareth, has made its way over the whole earth, has come down through thirty centuries, and is still the chief source of Spiritual life, the main support of moral efforts, the prolific principle of high thoughts and pure aims and noble deeds throughout the civilised world. And, if from the surface you enter into the depth of society, you find the Bible the parent's charter-book, the child's delight, the old man's comfort, and the young man's guide. In its pages the sick and weary find the solace which they need, and the tempted meet with timely succour. Its words whisper hope and peace to the dying, and minister daily food to the healthy and vigorous household. With the pious music of its sublime or plaintive songs echo the roofs of ten thousand times ten thousand Christian temples, and the child's prayer night and morn is lisp'd forth in the simple and comprehensive words which were dictated by Him who its central light. The poetry of the Bible has been the forming power of the greatest modern poems, for Tasso, Milton, and Cowper present in high relief the features of its moulding hand. And its high and aspiring spirit, its Heaven-ward tendencies, its ethereal sanctities, its judicial grandeur, have given birth to those sublime creations in architecture and painting, which are seen in the works of Michael Angelo, and may be designated the school of Christian art. Nor is there any department of human thought or effort that biblically educated men have not enriched or adorned.

ROWLAND HILL'S SERVANT.—On one occasion the late Rowland Hill preached a funeral sermon on the death of his servant-man. In the course of that sermon he said:—"Many persons present were acquainted with the deceased, and have had it in their power to observe his character and conduct. They can bear witness, that for a considerable number of years he proved himself a perfectly honest, sober, industrious, and religious man, faithfully performing, as far as lay in his power, the duties of his station in life, and serving God with constancy and zeal. Yet this very man was once a robber on the highway. More than thirty years ago, he stopped me on the public road and demanded my money. Not at all intimidated, I argued with him; I asked him what could induce him to pursue so iniquitous and dangerous a course of life? 'I have been a coachman,' said he: 'I am out of place, and I cannot get a character. I am unable to get any employment, and am therefore obliged to resort to this means of gaining a subsistence.' I desired him to call on me. He promised he would, and he kept his word. I talked further with him, and I offered to take him into my own service. He consented, and ever since that period he has served me faithfully, and not me only, but has faithfully served his God. Instead of finishing his life in a public and ignominious manner with a depraved and hardened mind, as he probably would have done, he died in peace, and we trust, prepared for the society of just men made perfect. Till this day the extraordinary circumstance I have related has been confined to his breast and mine. I have never mentioned it to my dearest friend.

THE LITTLE GIRL AND THE MINISTER.—A pious English clergyman calling one day, in the course of his pastoral visits at the house of a friend, affectionately noticed a child in the room, a little girl about six years old. Among other things he asked her if she knew she had a bad heart, and opening the Bible, pointed to the passages where the Lord promises, "I will put a new spirit within you, and I will take the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh." He then entreated her to plead this promise in prayer, and she would find the Almighty faithful to His engagement.

Many years after, a lady at the age of twenty-three, came to him to propose herself for communion with the Church, and how inexpressible was his delight, when he found that she was the very person with whom, when she was a child, he had so faithfully conversed on the subject of Religion, and that the conversation was blessed and made the means of her conversion to God. Taking her Bible, she had retired as he advised, pleaded the promise, wept, prayed, and the Lord heard her, and answered her prayer. He gave her what she so anxiously desired, a *new heart*.

Let all ministers learn from this the importance of being faithful to children. Let no child ask, Why don't the minister speak to me?—*S. S. Messenger*.

SIN.—It is the mischievous property of sin, that it not only puts the soul into hell, but puts hell into the soul.

That should be our chief trouble which is the cause of all the trouble in the world.

Nothing worth having is got by sin. Nothing worth keeping is lost by holiness.

He that makes light of small sins is in the ready way to fall into great ones.

If we would not fall into things unlawful, we must not venture to the utmost bounds of things lawful. To tread upon the edge of a precipice is dangerous; if not, destructive.

'Tis folly for a person to do that now, which he must shortly undo by repentance, or be himself undone forever.

Carefully avoid those vices which most resemble virtue: they are a thousand times the most ensnaring. *Covetousness*, which looks very much like *prudent care*, is idolatry! Never do evil that good may come thereby. That would be serving the devil that God may serve thee.

HANGING OVER THE PIT.—"A wicked man is like one that hangs over a deep pit by a slender cord, which he holds with one hand and is cutting with the other."

A gentleman much addicted to profane swearing accompanied a pious miner to see one of the mines in Cornwall. During his visit to the pit he distressed his companion by many profane and abominable expressions; and, as they ascended together, finding it a long way, he flipantly said, "As it is so far down to your work, how far do you suppose it is to hell?" The miner promptly replied, "I do not know how far it is to hell, sir; but I believe that, if the rope by which we are drawn up should break, you would be there in one minute."

"NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP.—There are, probably, no four lines in the English language that are repeated so many times daily as the following:—

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

And it is not only children and youth that repeat them. Many, whose heads are "silvered over with age," have been accustomed to repeat them as their last prayer before closing their eyes in sleep every night since they were taught them in infancy.

NOW HAVE I KEPT THY WORD.—Sarah Howard, a poor old widow, who had been bedridden fourteen years, when visited by her minister, thus spoke of her afflictions:—"I can set to my seal that the Lord has chastened me sore, but He hath not given me over unto death; I have been chast-

ened in my person, and am quite helpless by long and severe illness; I have been chastened in my circumstances ever since I was left a widow; yes, I know what oppressing a widow, what bad debts, and hard creditors are: I have been chastened in my family by a son, of whom I was dotingly fond, running away and going to sea. Besides all these I have been chastened in mind, 'walking in darkness and having no light:' yet after all, I trust I can say with David, 'Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept thy word,' and I hope I can say that I am now returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of souls. I Pet. II. 25.

The account of the Examination and Soiree of the Sabbath School, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, at Three Rivers, will appear in our next.

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES.

We regret that in our present number we can give only a synopsis of the proceedings of the Religious Anniversaries which were recently held in this city.

MONDAY, Jan. 20.—*Montreal Religious Tract Society.* John Redpath, Esq., in the Chair. Prayer by the Rev. J. McLoud. Report read by the Rev. W. Rintoul. Publications issued through the year 79,271. Receipts, £458 8 7. Disbursements, £450 4 2. The speakers were, Rev. W. Couper, Dr. Davis, C. De Wolfe, R. McGill, Dr. Wilkes, and J. Wenham, Esq.. The collection, £15 10s 2d.

TUESDAY, Jan. 21.—*Canada Sunday School Union.* The Hon. James Ferrier presided. After prayer by the Rev. Dr. Wilkes the Report was read by Mr. T. A. Gibson. Reports have been received from 76 Schools, containing 827 Teachers, and 5396 Scholars. Eight new Schools have been opened. Books and Tracts issued during the year, 12,799 total, since the establishment of the Union, 230,474. During the year, 110 Schools have participated in the benefits of the Union. The Speakers were the Revs. Dr. Taylor, F. H. Marling, C. Lavell, J. Jenkins, and W. Couper. Collection, £15 8s 6d.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 22.—*Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society.* Dr. Holmes in the Chair. Reading the Scriptures and Prayer by the Rev. John Jenkins. The Report was read by the Rev. W. Taylor, D. D. Issues of Bibles and Testaments during the year, 7407: total since the establishment of the Society, 132,512.—The Rev. H. Budge has been appointed Travelling Agent. The Resolutions were proposed and seconded by the Rev. Messrs. C. Bancroft, W. Rintoul, A. M., A. F. Spaulding, John Irwin, James Caughey, H. Wilkes, D. D., and C. De Wolfe, A. M. Collection, £29 14s 5d.

THURSDAY, Jan. 23.—*French Canadian Missionary Society.*—Lieut. Col. Wilgress in the Chair. Prayer was offered by the Rev. W. Rintoul, A. M. The Report was read by the Rev. H. Wilkes, D. D. The Receipts of the year amounted to upwards of £1600, besides about