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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to frequent demands for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of registering all necessary statistics of our Sabbath Schools, as well as preparing the returns asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Rolls 60 cents per doz. Price of School Registers 1 cent each. Address—

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Notes of the Week.

A GOOD deal of material has been gathered in support of Mr. Conybeare's Bill before the British Parliament for prohibiting the sale of intoxicants to children under sixteen. It was found that upwards of 7,000 children entered 200 public houses in London—houses having been selected at random in four different quarters.

THE London Missionary Society reports an abnormal increase of income consequent on the adoption of the bold policy of calling for a hundred more missionaries and an annual increment of \$150,000. The advance is no less than \$155,000—one-third of which is due to the self denial week and one-third to increase of regular subscriptions.

THE Rev. Dr. Mathews was one of the speakers at the meetings held at the Centenary Hall, Bishopsgate Street, London, on behalf of the African native races, under the presidency of Sir Joseph W. Pearce, M.P. Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., moved a resolution calling on the Government to avert the grave evils threatened by the revival of Kanaka labour in Queensland.

THERE died in Oban lately at the age of 100 years and five months Mrs. Macfadyen, widow of Mr. Malcolm Macfadyen, teacher, Colonsay. Her mother was the sister of Dr. Smith, of Campbelltown, who translated the psalms into Gaelic metre. Two of her sons entered the ministry—the late Rev. Donald Macfadyen, of Laggan, and the late Rev. James Macfadyen, of Kildalton.

ONE of the recommendations of the committee on the representation of Presbyteries in the Established Assembly is that the act of 1704 be repealed in so far as it imposes on commissioners the restriction of "usual residence in" or "relation" to a particular Presbytery, a limitation which is already in desuetude in the case of elders. They also suggest that Presbyteries should commission one in three ministers, and one elder for each six ministers of whom the Presbytery consists.

THE membership of the past year in the Free Church of Scotland was 341,730, as against 338,973 for the previous year. The sum raised for the various Schemes and Funds was \$3,220,535—a decrease of \$147,935. Notwithstanding the great efforts by Dr. Ross Taylor, the congregational contributions to the Sustentation Fund have increased only about \$2,500, the total increase in that Fund from all sources being over \$25,000. The Home Mission Fund shows a considerable increase.

THE Belfast *Witness* says: The deputation from the Irish General Assembly to the Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland was received. The Rev. R. T. Simpson and Rev. J. D. Osborne constituted the deputation, and delivered able and judicious addresses, which were very favourably received, and sympathetic, as well as fraternal, resolutions were adopted. There was no deputation to the Free Church this year (deputations alternate to the two Scottish Assemblies), but the Moderator (Rev. Dr. Brown) sent a letter of fraternal greeting and judicious suggestion in view of the crisis in Ireland. The letter, with its home truths, was respectfully received, and it is to be hoped it will bear fruit.

IN the Free Church the proposed Declaratory Act has been approved of by fifty-five Presbyteries and disapproved of by twenty-two, there being no return from two; the overture anent ministerial inefficiency has been approved of by fifty-five and disapproved of by eighteen, there being no return from six; and the overture anent signing the formula during time of public worship has been approved of by sixty and disapproved of by thirteen, there being no return from six. There were sixteen petitions to the Assembly against the Declaratory Act from members and adherents of the Church.

THE Duke of Westminster presided at a meeting in Grosvenor House of the Native Races and Liquor Traffic United Committee. He said he was delighted that since their last annual meeting, the General Act of the Brussels African Conference had been ratified by all the seventeen powers concerned, the last signature having been obtained within the last few days. That Act proscribed spirituous liquors within a very large proportion of Africa, and enforced a minimum duty in territories into which spirits had been already introduced. Dr. Knight Bruce, Bishop of Mashonaland, moved a resolution rejoicing at the passing of the General Act.

AS the result of the report of the special commission on the quinquennial visitation of the Free Church Colleges, Prof. Duns has arranged to modify his science class arrangements so as to have the teaching of each session more concentrated on some special subject, and Professor Thomas Smith has resigned the chair of evangelistic theology. The present constitution of that chair is stated to operate seriously against its usefulness, however eminent its occupant may be. Foreseeing injury to discipline if students are to seize on each visitation as an opportunity for laying complaints, the commission suggest the appointment of a standing committee, by the enlargement of the college committee, with three sub-committees.

THE statistics of the Church of Scotland for 1891 show 597,077 on the communicants' roll at the end of the year, being 3,684 more than in the previous year. Five parishes sent no report. In 1891, 9,999 were removed from the roll by death, the figure in 1890 being only 8,257. Those who communicated at least once during the year numbered 438,260. The contributions, including \$328,790 of seat rents, amounted to \$2,209,140, being \$67,080 more than in 1890. No return was made by three parishes. This income is exclusive of that from invested funds, grants from Government, the Ferguson bequest, and Baird trust, and of bequests not made directly to the Church for religious or charitable purposes. Ordinary collections have risen \$45,000 since 1889.

THE *Christian Leader*, published in Glasgow, says: Dr. Kellogg, for the last six years minister of St. James Square Presbyterian Church, Toronto, one of the mother Churches there of United Presbyterianism, has accepted the invitation to go to India to translate the Scriptures into Hindi and Urdu. Dr. Kellogg has rare qualifications for the work, as he is one of the great Orientalists of the present day. He was elected a corresponding member of the American Oriental Society in 1872, and took part, in 1889, in the International Congress of Orientalists that was then held at Stockholm. The *Christian Leader* had a notice of his preaching at Southend United Presbyterian Church, Mull of Kintyre, a few years ago, and only last July a criticism of his learned commentary on "Leviticus" of the "Expositor's Bible" series appeared in our columns.

THE foundation stone of the new church of St. Cuthberts, Edinburgh, was laid by the Marquis of Tweeddale, the lord high commissioner to the General Assembly in presence of a large and influential gathering. Rev. Dr. MacGregor narrated the history of St. Cuthberts Church. According to Dr. Skene the first erection was by Cuthbert, the monk of Lindisfarne, who died in 687, and this building will be the seventh on the site. The spire built a

hundred years ago is retained, and every available stone of the old building is to be used in the new, the base of the pulpit being entirely of the stone of the pre-Reformation Church. His Grace, in performing the ceremony, said: "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost I declare this stone truly and well laid." Corn, oil and wine were sprinkled by Mrs. Williamson, Miss MacGregor and Miss Fulton, and flowers by the Marchioness.

THERE is a great religious movement at present going on in North India. The work of the North American missionaries has so prospered during the last year that the natives are coming into the Christian Churches faster than the missionaries are prepared to receive them. Some 19,000 of them were baptized during the year, and there are at present other 40,000 people, men and women, asking for admission to the communion table and the privileges of the Christian community. The movement resembles the great revivals which swept over this country some thirty or forty years ago. The converts are almost all of the lower castes, but they are said to be both physically and intellectually the equals of the members of the higher castes. The movement seems to run over a district like a great wave, and it is believed the tide has not reached its height yet.

THE *Christian Leader* remarks: A writer in the *Guardian* shows that the number of ordinations in the English Establishment this year is less than usual, and that the proportion of Oxford and Cambridge graduates has fallen to forty-six per cent., less than a half. Archdeacon Farrar, in the *Review of the Churches*, rather welcomes the reduction, for there are too many curates already. In the same review Dr. Clifford emphasizes the fact of a similar surplus in the Baptist Churches; but, as the American saying has it, "there's plenty of room at the top." There can be little doubt that the paucity of graduates seeking ordination will create a bad condition of things in another twenty years. The half-educated man has no staying power, and the English Nonconformists are becoming more and more alive to this fact. Mr. Spurgeon has taught them this; his college has drenched the Baptist pulpits with ill-equipped men, albeit there are some splendid exceptions; evangelism has swamped exposition; and the same denomination is rubbing its eyes at the discovery that the average progress of the pulpit lags behind that of the pew.

A REGULAR correspondent of the Belfast *Witness* says: Scarcely will the Assembly be over than some of its members will be on the move westward to attend the Pan Presbyterian Council at Toronto. It is to meet on September 21st, but many of the delegates will start in July or August, as it is scarcely worth while crossing the Atlantic for a mere stay of a fortnight in America. Dr. Watts is already ascertaining definitely who of those nominated at last Assembly can go, and the coming Assembly will fill the places of those who cannot, of whom there will be several—Dr. Watts himself, I am sorry to say, being among the number. The opening meeting of the Council is to be held in St. James Square Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on Wednesday, 21st September, at eleven o'clock, when Principal Caven, of Toronto, will preach the usual sermon. Dr. Blaikie, of Edinburgh, President of the Alliance, will then constitute the Council, and business will begin. The meeting is to last until Friday, 30th September, and is to be diversified by the usual receptions, etc., though whether the famous excursion to "Tonduff," so well remembered as one of the memorable features of the Belfast meeting in 1884, will be rivalled or equalled, is open to doubt. The delegates and their wives are to be looked after by a hospitality committee in Toronto, and arrangements of all kinds are being made for their seeing both Canada and the United States to advantage. [We have no "Tonduff," but Niagara is not very far from Toronto, and it is just possible that our guests from a distance may have opportunities of seeing much that will interest them.]