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## IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers

## IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

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## Notes of the Week.

ALL the property of the Salvation Army, estimated at \$5,000,000, is in the name of General Booth alone, but Mr. Arnold White says that while as a matter of theory he has absolute control of the finance, as a matter of fact and practice he has nothing to do with it, being surrounded by a system devised and controlled by some of the ablest accountants in London.

THE issues of the two greatest Bible societies of the world—one in England and the other in America—up to 1st April, 1892, were 183,387,489 copies, and of the other lesser societies, 46,612,511 copies; in all 230,000,000 copies since the year 1804, the year of the organization of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The total issues of all the Bible societies of the world for the last year amounted to more than 7,000,000.

AT the Peace Congress at Berne encouraging progress was reported in the increasing acceptance of arbitration as a means of settling disputes. Three tribunals are now sitting to adjudicate differences, in which nations of the first rank are the interested parties. Furthermore, fifteen independent American nations have made a compact together that all disputes between each other, except such as attack their autonomy and independence, shall be submitted to arbitration. The President of the United States, with the consent of the other associated nationalities, has invited all European Governments to join this compact. The Swiss Republic has accepted the invitation. Resolutions were passed in favour of simultaneous and mutual disarmament; the federation of European States for peace; the neutralization of straits and canals. After transacting other business the Congress adjourned to Chicago, August, 1893.

IN view of the special need for aggressive Christian work among the vast crowds who will visit the Fair next year at Chicago, great preparations are making for the coming winter in Mr. Moody's Bible Institute. Two new storeys on the main building are about completed, which will afford accommodation for one hundred additional men. Mr. Moody, who expects to spend a large portion of the year in Chicago, is trying to secure leading men from England and America to preach in various languages and give instruction in the Institute in addition to the regular corps of teachers. It appears likely that more room will have to be provided for the women's department in order to accept all the promising applicants. The musical department of the Institute will also receive special attention. It is proposed to gather and train a large male choir to sing at the services to be held during the World's Fair, and extra privileges will be granted pupils having exceptionally good voices who will remain during that period.

A DISCUSSION, conducted by correspondence in the *Times*, has been initiated by an ex-nun on the subject of the alleged persecuting principles of the Church of Rome. Miss Cusack called attention to the fact that in the oath sworn by Roman Catholic bishops an engagement is taken to persecute and assail, to the limits of possibility, all heretics, schismatics and rebels against the Pope. "Father Thurston" rejoined to Miss Cusack that, since 1818, "by a rescript of Pope VII., no Catholic bishop

who is a British subject has taken on himself any engagement to persecute heretics." The Protestant Bishop of Meath, accepting from this apologist of Rome the statement that a persecuting ordinance, retained for all the rest of the world, had been cancelled in favour of Britain, eagerly enquired "whether Irish subjects of Her Majesty enjoy a like protection. This question," he said, "is of supreme importance to all 'heretics' who are not so happy as to live within the favoured bounds of England, Wales and Scotland." To this it appears that no satisfactory answer can be returned from the point of view of logical, thorough-going Popery. The Jesuits may modify oaths for their own purposes, but, as Dr. Dollinger abundantly proves, the orthodox modern dogma of Papal infallibility is retrospective, and makes it impossible for a Pope to discard principles adopted by his predecessors. Happily, however, the great wave of progress, carrying toleration on its crest, sweeps away persecution for heresy in spite of all dogmas and all infallibilities.

THE *British Weekly* says: Dr. Edkins, who has just arrived in this country for a furlough, has been good enough to favour us with his views on the present situation in China. He says that the Government has kept loyal to the treaties, more so than many who have written on the subject are disposed to admit. The recent news need not disturb the minds of the friends of missionaries at home. The Government is taking every precaution against foreign risings; and magistrates, even when unfriendly to Christians, know that it is their own interest to be vigilant. The most surprising thing about recent incidents was the determined attitude of the Hunan people. It was not supposed that their opposition to Christianity was so intense. But such movements owe their strength to half frenzied leaders, and of these Chow Han has been severely punished—having been deprived of his literary degree, and the privileges belonging to it. The Christians have not been affected; as a class the Chinese are steady, not variable, like the Japanese. On the opium question Dr. Edkins thinks that the main thing to be attempted is to prevent India from becoming an opium-smoking country like China. The prohibition of Indian opium from India will merely stimulate the demand for the native-grown article; it will not diminish the consumption of opium in China. Opium smoking Dr. Edkins considers a frightful evil, and the greatest scourge that could fall on a country. But he has no hope of its reduction, save by moral means. Christianity has practically ended the practice among its converts, although Dr. Edkins is not prepared to deny that an opium smoker may be a Christian. He thinks the effects of the riots on missions merely temporary. The famine relief funds did more to promote Christian missions than these disturbances have done against them.

THE *New York Independent* says: The Andover case came to an end last week after having been before the public in one form or another for nearly six years. The Board of Visitors has decided to dismiss the complaint, giving several reasons therefor. Among them are these: That the complaint was made six years ago, and does not involve the present condition of affairs; that the holding of one professor and the acquittal of the others on the same complaint and evidence raises a question as to the equity and reasonableness of the adjudication; that the single person against whom the complaint now stands has, since the complaint was filed, again subscribed to the creed of the Seminary, and is to be supposed to have made that subscription intelligently; that the complainants have not asked redress for any personal wrong, and no injury will be done them by the dismissal of the complaint. These are, in brief, the reasons which the Visitors give for dismissing the case. They intimate that they well understand the responsibility which rests upon them, and will discharge the duties of their office with conscientious faithfulness. And so an end has come to the attempt to vindicate the wishes of the found-

ers of the great trust represented by Andover Theological Seminary, as expressed in the statutes of the institution. We do not think that this result is one which will tend to establish the sacredness of trusts of this character. The plea that the complaint is now six years old, and concerns acts and utterances which, though alleged to be contrary to the statutes of the Seminary at that time, are not now important because of the time which has elapsed in the trial of the case, seems to us utterly unsound. It certainly was not the fault of the complainants that the case was protracted to such a length. They were met at every point by objections and tactics of delay. To be told now that because of the lapse of time their complaint has become unimportant, is to make delay in all similar cases a legitimate defense. One of the Boston daily papers says that there was general rejoicing in Andover after the announcement of the decision, and that the sentiment was that "heresy will never be arraigned on the hill again." It must be confessed that the decision of the Visitors gives good ground for such a feeling. Professor Smyth is now "vindicated;" but who shall vindicate the founders who so generously provided the means of sustaining his professorial chair?

A CORRESPONDENT of the *British Weekly* writes: The advent of Mr. Moody has created quite an excitement in Belfast. After a series of most successful meetings south-eastward from Londonderry, he arrived in Belfast to find everybody on the tip-toe of eager expectancy, and all the arrangements for his work in the most perfect order and readiness. The "Ulster Convention Hall" has been secured for his meetings, and altered somewhat to suit the requirements of the present situation. All the bunting, political mottoes, and party watchwords have been removed, and replaced by appropriate texts of Scripture. The opening meeting was held at eight o'clock a.m. on Sabbath morning; and, early though the hour was, the structure was crowded long before that time, with an audience numbering 10,000, representing all classes of the community, and all the Protestant denominations. The second meeting was held at three o'clock in the afternoon, and it was calculated that there could not have been fewer than 15,000 packed, sitting and standing, within the vast wooden shell. Besides, there were thousands who could not gain admission, and these were gathered in crowds on the surrounding open spaces, and preached to by ministers and laymen. The third meeting was held at eight o'clock in the evening, and the crush for admittance was even greater than on the two previous occasions. As during the afternoon, the overflow grouped itself in crowds outside and engaged in open-air services. It is reckoned that the Gospel was preached to some 35,000 inside the hall, and to 8,000 or 10,000 outside during the three diets of service. It is needless to say that the utmost order prevailed throughout, save when there was a slight difficulty in hearing the speaker in the remote parts of the hall, and then a forward movement took place here and there, which caused a slight shuffling and commotion. The structure being entirely of wood, and Mr. Moody dreading fire or a panic, asked the committee at the close of the evening service to keep the aisles completely clear, to have police and firemen about, and to bring all the "rougier" element right to the front. It was agreed to adopt these suggestions, but the keeping of the aisles clear will limit the accommodation by at least a couple of thousand. The General Assembly's College, which is close at hand, the neighbouring churches, and the Exhibition Hall in the adjoining Botanic Gardens were secured for overflow and enquiry meetings. Mr. Sankey is much missed, but great satisfaction has been expressed with the singing of Mr. Burke, who has taken his place. The Rev. Drs. Williamson, Archdeacon Seaver, R. Crawford Johnson, and Professor Watts were present morning, afternoon and evening, and took part. The meetings continue during the week, after which, as at present arranged, Mr. Moody goes to Dundalk, and then to Dublin. The Belfast folk think him aged considerably since they last saw him, but observe no abatement of his wondrous vigour in speech or action.