

Questions to Parents.

WE hope that all parents will seriously ponder the following questions, asked in the current No. of the *S. S. Journal* :—

“Do your children know the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Twenty-third Psalm, and the Apostles' Creed?”

“The knowledge of these things will be of no advantage to them if they never offer the prayer, accept the creed, rejoice in the psalm, or obey the commandments. But, knowing them, they will be more likely to love, trust, hold, and obey than if they had never known them.”

“It is your business to see that during the years of memory these cardinal things are put into the minds of your children.”

“Do your children know them? You trust to the Sunday-school. You trust to their own interest in the matter. You trust in some teaching agency that will come in the after years. You trust to your pastor. Do you not know that your responsibility begins before that of any other teacher? Do you not know that if you neglect to give them a thorough knowledge of these things, the probability is they will never get it?”

—“How may the Catechism be taught more generally and more successfully?”

1. Let parents see that it is studied at home.
2. Use the “pictorial edition” of the Catechism.
3. Make it a part of the regular programme in the school.
4. Offer rewards for learning and reciting it.
5. Let the teachers learn it themselves.
6. Shorten the opening exercises.
7. Let the superintendent shorten the length and diminish the number of his speeches, in order to make room for it.
8. Talk about it cheerfully, as if it were not a disagreeable business.
9. Let two questions each Sunday be announced from the desk, taught in the class, and reviewed in concert.
10. Let the pastor impress its importance upon the family by talking of it from the pulpit.—*The Study.*

GRAY spent seven years in perfecting his “Elegy,” but the time required to get a box of Esterbrook's Steel Pens is just long enough to send to the nearest stationer. Wholesale by Brown Bros., Toronto.

Book Notices.

Canadian Methodist Magazine. Contents of May number: The most notable article in this number, and one which will attract much attention, is a paper by John Macdonald, Esq., on the Approaching General Conference, in which, among other things, he advocates the election of three or four bishops, who shall hold office for life. Another article, founded largely on Miss Gordon Cummings' “At Home in Fiji,” describes the marvellous conversion, through the labours of Wesleyan missionaries, of those islands from savage cannibalism to a Christian Crown Colony of Great Britain. The frontispiece is a fine portrait of Longfellow. There is also an article on his poetry, sketches of the late Henry Wilkinson, William Beatty, and Bishop Janes, with other articles—four in all being illustrated—makes up a number of more than average interest. Of the illustrated articles in this Magazine the *Missionary Review*, of Princeton, N. J., says: “They are well fitted to awaken and cherish deeper and more profound interest in foreign missions. We wish them the widest possible circulation and influence.”

We have received the April number of the *Original English Chatterbox* from the American publishers, Messrs. Estes & Lauriat, Boston, Mass. This is the children's magazine, par excellence; containing 32 pages, and 16 full-page illustrations each month. It has more than a million readers in England and America.

For one dollar sent by a NEW SUBSCRIBER, directly to the publishers, they will send, post-paid, *Chatterbox* for one year and a beautiful steel engraving of a little girl puzzling over her first sum, and entitled, “Ought and Carry One.” The engraving is 18 x 24 inches, and sells for \$3.00, thus giving every new subscriber \$4.00 worth for \$1.00.

Home Decoration. We saw advertised in the *S. S. Times* the publications—or manufactures—which shall we call them? of the Home Decorating Company, of 163 Bank Street, New York. We, therefore, sent 25 cents for their artistic plaques, and received in due time copies of those famous pictures, “The First Easter” and the “The First Christman”—admirable reproductions on *papier maché* of porcelain painting. They also announce at 25 cents a pair, other *aesthetic novelties*, artistic pallettes, and plaques. Making home beautiful is a long step toward making it happy.

The *Quarterly Review Service*, and *Canadian Scholar's Quarterly*, have both become very popular. The *Review Service* for June is now ready, and will be mailed for 50 cents per 100. The third number of the *Quarterly*, that for July, August, and September—20 pages—Map, Lesson Hymns, everything required, will be mailed for \$2 per 100.