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W. H. WITHEROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1888.

The Chautauquan Decade.

As the present is the best time to begin the Chautauqua course, we have pleasure in offering the following from *Zion's Herald*—modified to our use. The inception of the project was vividly recalled, when, ten years before, Bishop Vincent, aflame with his great purpose of popular education and moral culture, laid his new plans before a great audience. It proved to be the providential design of the hour. Society was waiting for the germinant word. Dr. Vincent but uttered God's great thought for the uplifting of humanity. Over seven hundred members at once gave their names for the proposed Circle.

That seven hundred have increased to more than two hundred thousand; that one assembly has grown into forty. From the October number of the *Chautauquan* we take the following graphic account of the scope of the work:—

"The sweep of the C. L. S. C. has been almost as broad as the world. While the bulk of the membership is in the United States and Canada, Great Britain has some three hundred readers; in France, Germany, Sweden, Bulgaria and Russia, there are members; one Siberian exile has taken up the course; in Japan three thousand readers are enrolled and twenty-four local circles have been formed; South Africa has over a hundred readers, and next year will

hold a real Chautauqua Recognition day; the Hawaiian Islands has been a C. L. S. C. stronghold for several years, and the interest still remains. Among missionaries in every part of the world the course is read regularly; in Brazil, Chili, Mexico, and the Bermudas there are members.

"The classes among whom the readings go are as many and as varied as the countries. Thousands of the members are college graduates, and many have been sent into college by the stimulus of the work. There are hundreds of cultured homes represented in the membership. Lawyers, doctors, teachers, ministers, and business men join the circle. But the great aim of the C. L. S. C. is to reach the poor, the uneducated, the neglected, the sick, and the old, and wonderfully well has it carried out its design. In many factory towns of New England and the Middle States are to be found circles of hard-working factory hands who steal time to read the prescribed course after ten hours of hard labor. On the plains of the West, in the mountains, far away from railroads and post-offices, readers are scattered. There are members in the Massachusetts Reformatory, and the penitentiaries at Canon City, Colorado, and Seattle, Washington Territory.

"Many invalids throughout the country are making their shut-in hours bright and hopeful by these readings, and not a few have organized circles in their invalid chambers, which have served to leaven an entire set of their town's society. Among the aged the work has been most successful. Every Commencement at Chautauqua, marching in the procession of graduates will be found white-haired men and women, whose latter days are being made as good and interesting as the earlier ones by the persistent search for knowledge which they are keeping up. Among the '88's present on Recognition Day at Chautauqua in August last, were three deaf and dumb persons and one colored man—signs of the wide adaptability and the endless opportunity which the course affords."

The course of reading for 1888-'89 commences with October. The list of books, with price, is:—

1. An Outline History of Greece. J. H. Vincent, D.D., LL.D. 50 cents.
2. Preparatory Greek Course in English. W. C. Wilkinson, D.D. \$1.
3. College Greek Course in English. W. C. Wilkinson, D.D. \$1.
4. Popular Zoology. J. D. Steele. \$1.20
5. Chemistry. J. H. Appleton, A.M. \$1.
6. The Character of Jesus. Horace Bushnell. 40 cents.
7. The Modern Church in Europe. J. F. Hurst, D.D., LL.D. 40 cents.

The *Chautauquan*, a monthly with required readings and much other excellent matter, one of the most suggestive and inspiring magazines that comes to our table, is \$1.50. The total expense for reading matter, therefore, for the