



New Series.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1889.

Vol. VIII., No. 11

### Editorial Jottings.



URING the last few months—pringing, no doubt, out of the Jesuit discussion, there has been much said about the duty of the nation to provide religious instruction in schools. It depends, very much, on what you mean by "religious instruction." The great truths of the Christian religion should be taught—but no man's *ism*. We can never please the Roman priesthood: let us leave them out of the calculation. But let children learn the Ten Commandments (not omitting the second, as the Romanists do) and the Lord's Prayer: and the Scriptures, either by scholars or teacher, be publicly read every day, and the exercises opened and closed with prayer. They will remember it all their lives.

THE *Year Book*. Rev. Thomas Hall says, in the last number of his *Home Missionary Advocate*, "This book is the *envy of all Year Book editors over the world*. There is nothing so complete of the kind in existence." Oh!

It is not the weariness of mortality, but the strength of divinity, which we have to recognize in all mighty things; and that is just what we now never recognize, but think that we are to do great things by help of iron bars and perspiration; alas! we shall do nothing that way, but lose some pounds of our own weight.—*Ruskin*.

IN one of the early numbers of last year, we gave a portrait of Rev. A. N. Somerville, D.D., the evangelist. He has now passed away. He was a friend of the Bonars, and Robert Murray McCheyne, of blessed memory; and one of the men who "came out" of the Scottish Establishment in 1843.

THE PACIFIC COAST.—There are about one thousand Christian Chinamen connected with the Congregational churches of California and Oregon: mostly the fruit of the "Sunday School" system, as practised in their case—one scholar to one teacher. A blessed result. These converts have formed a missionary society, and have sent two missionaries back to China; one a native.

OCTOBER has been full of Conventions and Councils. The Ontario S. S. Convention in Toronto, and the Congregational Council at Worcester, Mass., have been those we are most interested in. There is only good out of such gatherings. "They that loved the Lord, spake often one to another." It would seem as if only now we are beginning to see the beauty and force of the old Hebrew Prophet's words.

WE hope the Protestant Council of Education in Quebec Province will not be weakened. Everything is not known yet, but they seem to have agreed to accept the \$60,000; the equipage to the \$400,000 given to the Jesuits. When our Congregational Missions could have had \$100 a year from the Government for every mission school among the Indians, we declined it. There are some things better than money—to wit, self-respect and principle.