

saw. It was prepared at the request of the Wesleyan Conference in England by the Rev. Dr. Pope, one of the ablest theologians living, and is published by order of the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Canada. We hope that both these Catechisms, No. I. and No. II., will be diligently studied in the schools. We know of nothing that will so fill the mind with scriptural views of God and our relations to Him, and the duties springing out of these relationships, as the study of these little summaries of the doctrines of Methodism throughout the world.

The S. S. Hymns for 1884.

WE have received a letter—and but a single letter—asking us to continue printing the Lesson Hymns in the BANNER and *Quarterly*. We think that the space that would be thus occupied can be used more to the advantage of the schools otherwise. The Lesson Notes have become so full that there is not room to print the hymns if we wished. And so many schools have supplied themselves with the S. S. Hymnal, and the others are doing so so fast, that they would justly complain if we occupied the valuable space in our Lesson Helps in giving them what they already have. The S. S. Hymnal is so cheap that almost every school can get it for the scholars, and those that cannot can get a single copy, and have the hymns given out two lines at a time. Indeed, where there are many young children, this is necessary, as they may not be able to read the hymns. The familiar verses and choruses will soon be learned by heart, and it would be sheer waste of space to print them over and over in the Lesson Notes.

The plan of printing the hymns was only adopted as a temporary expedient till the schools should have their own Hymnal. Now that we have one—the very best we have ever seen—and so cheap that every school ought to have it—only 75 cents per dozen—we shall take the Lesson Hymns almost exclusively from it, merely giving the number of the hymn and the first line. Where we can find anything still more appropriate to any of the lessons, we shall print those hymns selected from other sources in full. This, we think, will be most satisfactory, and most to the advantage of all the schools. It is a grand thing to have the tens of thousands of scholars in our schools all

singing the same hymns as they all study the same lessons. Much care is given to the selection of the hymns, which will be found, we think, to enforce and illustrate and clinch the lessons of the day.

Book Notices.

Home College Series. We have received Numbers 26 to 48 of this admirable series of cheap 16-page pamphlets—only 5 cents each.

Amongst these are the following: "William Shakespeare," "John Milton," "Edward Spenser," "William Wordsworth," "Joseph Addison," and "Wm. Hickling Prescott," by David Wise, D.D.; "The Planets," by Rev. C. M. Westlake, M.S.; "Keep Good Company," by Samuel Smiles; "A Set of Tools," "Diamonds and other Precious Stones," and "The Watch and the Clock," by Rev. Alfred Taylor; "Palestine," by Rev. J. I. Bodwell; "Caesar and Cicero," and "The Gracchi," from Plutarch; "Two Weeks in the Yosemite," by Rev. J. M. Buckley, D.D.; "The Ocean," by Miss Carrie R. Dennen; "Housekeeper's Guide," "Memory Practice," selections for memorizing, "Readings from Wordsworth," and "The Moon," by Rev. C. M. Westlake, M.S. We heartily commend these pamphlets as giving much useful information in a very small compass.

The Lesson Commentary on the International Sunday-School Lessons for 1884. By the Rev. JOHN H. VINCENT, D.D., and the Rev. J. L. HURLBUT, D.D. 8vo. Pp. 312. New York: Phillips & Hunt; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, and Halifax. Price \$1.25.

This admirable Lesson Help for Bible Students is, we think, this year better than ever before. It brings to a focus upon the selected lessons light and exposition from nearly two hundred of the ablest Biblical Commentators of the present and the past. It has three excellent maps and a large number of fine illustrations. What we especially like is the copious reference to the great authorities on all the topics treated. Beyond the BANNER we know no other Lesson Help so good as this.

From the same House we have also received the Senior, Intermediate, and Beginner's Books of the Berean Series—20 cents each. They are much more convenient than the Berean Leaves—and the Beginner's Book has a couple of beautiful engraved illustrations for every lesson.

A good definition of an agnostic: "One who doesn't know anything, and is proud of it."

THE best governing power in a Bible school is the Divine presence felt by all.

To say, "We are too poor to give," is to nurse our own poverty, and hold ourselves down.