

or more of individuals whose attempts at Sunday School work, before the efforts of Robert Ralke, are well known to students of Sunday School history. Miss Ball's work was conducted in 1709, many other sporadic instances of Sunday School work preceded hers such as that of Rev. Eleazer Wheelock, in 1703 in Columbia, Connecticut, Rev. David Blair, in Brecken, Scotland; Ludwig Hooker, in 1740 in Ephrata, Pennsylvania; and Rev. Joseph Alleins, as far back as 1665-1668, in Bath, England. Still a century earlier, in 1560 a form of Sunday School had been inaugurated by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and as early as 1603 a similar system was in operation in the church of England.

The Far West.

As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Wrapped about by the state of Washington on the south, the green waters of the great Pacific Ocean on the west, the eternal snows on the north, and the massive Rockies on the east, lies Canada's greater west British Columbia, destined by the fertility of its soil, the extent and richness of its grazing lands, its exhaustless timber lands, the productivity of its waters, the wealth of its mines, and its relation to the "Far East" to be the crown and pride of our Dominion.

This land must be conquered by the Cross. High over all banners must float the banner of the Cross. High over all spires must rise those from whence ring out the chimes that call the people to worship the King of Kings.

The Baptists have invaded this land in the name of the King Immanuel. They have established 18 outposts, 16 of which are provided with pastors, another being regularly supplied by strong brethren from the neighboring churches, and a pastor is now in sight for the remaining field. Of these, 9 only just one half, are self-supporting, 5 of which are just barely so. The total resident membership is 1273, a small but heroic band. Last year their contributions for local church work averaged \$14.19 per member as compared with \$10.22 contributed per member by the Ontario and Quebec brethren. Their contributions for Home and Foreign Missions averaged \$2.04 per member as compared with \$1.70 contributed by our Upper Canadian brethren, and .68 per member contributed by our Maritime Province brethren. Adding amount raised in Maritime Provinces for Twentieth Century Fund, their average is .89 per member and even adding amount raised for Second Forward Movement, the average per member does not nearly equal that raised by our self-sacrificing B. C. brethren.

Besides, we war against many adversaries and difficulties peculiar to a new and growing country. There is the heterogeneous character of the population. The people have come from the four winds of the earth, Swedes, Norwegians, Icelanders, Irish, Scotch, English, French, German, Italians, Russians, Chinese, Japanese, Canadians, and some from Uncle Sam's land. Many of these people, especially from English speaking lands, were members of churches in their homelands, but coming here to get rich quick and not knowing how long they could be in any one place, have not affiliated themselves with any body of Christians, and today some of them are respectable citizens, others have gone down. The mass of these are non church goers and constitute one of the strongest positive hindrances to our work. The northern European people amongst us, though generally professing to be members of the Lutheran or some other church, are non-church goers, given to Sunday sports, and hard to reach, since they do not readily associate with English speaking people. The constant moving from one place to another and the absence of such ties of relationship as exists in Maritime Province churches is a serious drawback. On the other hand the holding together for the work of Christ in spite of these difficulties, has called out a larger and stronger spirit of Christian brotherliness and broad-mindedness, which, for the lack of such conditions, is not known in like measure among Eastern brethren.

When all these facts concerning the conditions under which our work is carried on, and the generous way in which our B. C. brethren support the work are considered, I, for one, feel that the brethren of the Maritime Provinces ought to stir themselves to a just appreciation of their obligation to aid these valiant and struggling brethren. We call for help. We are bold in our appeal because that we ourselves are first in sacrifice for the work. The Lord of the vineyard has sent us men for our fields. The fields that we have we are bound to hold for his name's sake. Our obligations this year are larger far than last year, since the Lord has answered our prayers and sent us men. We believe that he will answer our prayers and open the hearts and purses of our brothers and sisters in the Maritime Provinces.

There are here with us many young men from the East. They came here not to find Christ, but to find the treasures of earth. Only yesterday I came in contact with one of these boys, about two and twenty. He had a dear mother's letter in his pocket just received. Had that mother known the condition of her boy when she wrote there would have been more tears in her letter. When she hears from her

boy again, however, he will tell her of a "pearl of great price" found Feb. 19th, 1905, in Victoria, B. C. Will that mother think to thank God and pray for those who sought and found her boy? Fathers and mothers of the Maritime Provinces, your boys may be in this fair British Columbia far from home and far from God. To you I appeal. Remember your boys. In the name of Jesus and for the sake of the boys in the "far country" I appeal to you to pray for this work and give more generously for its support.

The brethren of the Provinces will be glad to know that Rev. Willard Stith is now among us. He is pastor of the First Baptist church, Vancouver, the largest church in our Convention. His people love him dearly, and the Lord is abundantly blessing his labors. Evangelist Shanks is meeting with a good degree of success. The special services that have been held in the churches during the past few months, have resulted in rich spiritual quickening, and the harvesting of some souls for the kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

Victoria, B. C.

E. LEROY DAKIN.

The Rhodes Scholar for Nova Scotia for 1905.

ROY ELLIOT BATES SELECTED BY THE FACULTY OF ACADIA UNIVERSITY.

In accordance with the method adopted for the Maritime Provinces. The appointment of the Rhodes Scholar for Nova Scotia, for 1905, fell to Acadia University, the faculty being the Committee of Selection. Much interest has existed in college circles over the event for months past. As Acadia, like some of the other Maritime Colleges, is affiliated with Oxford University, no entrance examinations were required of the candidates. Any student who had completed the sophomore year at Acadia with Greek was eligible to apply, provided he was also a British subject, and would not be less than 19 or more than 25 years of age on the 1st of October next.

Five men made formal application, three of whom were graduates, and two undergraduates. Several other strong men were eager to apply but were disqualified by the age limit. The applications according to the instructions issued by the Rhodes Trustees, contained sketches of the careers of the respective candidates, and were accompanied by such certificates and collateral information as might be of service. To aid them in determining the merits of the candidates, the Faculty, in accordance with the spirit of Mr. Rhodes' wish, sought to enlarge their data by requesting information from the Athletic Association of the University, from the Students' Literary Society, and from the student body as represented by the men of the three upper classes. It is reported that the students did their work admirably. Three separate reports were furnished the Faculty, in which carefully compiled information was given concerning the record and standing of each candidate in athletics, in the literary life of the University, and in his general life as a man among his fellow students.

After due deliberation and investigation, the Faculty has elected Mr. Roy Elliott Bates, of the class of 1904, to the coveted honor. Mr. Bates is twenty-three years of age, and is a son of the Rev. W. E. Bates, formerly of the Tabernacle Baptist church, Halifax, and later of the Baptist church, Amherst. While the Rev. Mr. Bates is an American citizen, and has recently returned to the United States, Mr. Roy Bates has become a duly naturalized British citizen, with the full qualifications of an applicant in this respect.

Mr. Bates is regarded as a man of conspicuous all-round qualifications for the privilege to which he has been appointed. He is a young man of excellent moral character. His literary and scholastic attainments too are of a high order. He was prepared for college at Halifax Academy, and in the examination of the Education Department for the "B" certificate at the conclusion of his course there, he stood second in the Province. At Acadia he exhibited unusual capacity and interest as a student, maintained a high standing throughout the four years of his undergraduate course, and carried an honor course in Classics. He was graduated with honors last June. In addition to his uniformly high standing in the class lists, Mr. Bates made a reputation with the professors and students alike for marked literary talent and distinction. His activity and achievements in connection with the students Literary Society and the College paper, gave him, according to the testimony of his fellow students, easily first rank in this respect among the competitors for the scholarship. During the present college year Mr. Bates has been pursuing post-graduate studies at Harvard University. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at Harvard, in a letter to President Trotter, writes of his work as "showing an excellent spirit and unusual training and ability." At the recent mid-year examination at Harvard Mr. Bates stood first in a class of seventy in a Fine Arts course, first in a genuine course in Classical Philology, and was among the first three or four in two courses in advanced English.

In respect to athletics and the love of out-door sports, on which Mr. Rhodes laid considerable stress, as tributary to manly development, Mr. Bates has a strong record. In football he was captain of his Freshman Class Team, played throughout the four years of his course, was on the College team once, and was captain of the second college

team during his senior year. In hockey, he played on his class team for four years, and on the college team two years. In Basketball he played on his class team four years. In Baseball he played on his class team three years. In Tennis he played on his class team throughout his course, was College Tennis captain in his senior year, and was twice champion of the University, once in doubles, once in singles. His love of out-door sports and his athletic proficiency are, therefore, amply evidenced.

With respect to his qualities of manhood, his capacity for leadership, and his general resourcefulness, his candidacy was not less strong than in the other respects already referred to. He is a man of strong personality, of cultured and dignified bearing, of kindly nature, and of public spirit. He was conspicuous and influential among his fellow students throughout his college course, and was keenly and wholesomely interested in the various departments of college life.

If spared to enjoy the privileges which the appointment opens to him, it is believed that Mr. Bates at Oxford will fulfil in a high degree Mr. Rhodes' idea in founding the scholarships, and will do credit alike to Nova Scotia, and to the college whose representative he will be.

Dr. Richard in China.

Dr. Timothy Richard who has been a missionary in China for the past 35 years, and since the Boxer outbreak a confidential adviser of the Chinese government, and who knows probably more about Chinese affairs than any other living man with the possible exception of Sir Robert Hart, is at present in England on important business in connection with his work. In a recent interview, referring to the changes which have taken place during the years of his missionary career he said:

"When I went out first, there were no missionaries in the interior of China. Few ever travelled in the interior. It was then as little known as the centre of Africa was at that time, whereas now we have missionaries in every part of China, hundreds in some provinces, and scores in others. When I first went out, the number of Christians was very, very small. In the Province of Shantung, which is as large as a European kingdom, there were not 500 Christians. Now there are 10,000. When I speak of Christians, I mean actual communicants. I should put down the number of Protestant Christians in the whole Chinese Empire at about half a million, meaning those who attend Christian worship and, therefore, are to all intents and purposes Christians. Now that is a tremendous change in thirty years."

In speaking of the general attitude of the people toward the Christian religion, and as to the means used for bringing it about, he said: "It was mainly by the influence of the circulation of the literature issued by the Christian Literature Society. Some of the leading literary men of China, such as Kang-yu-wei and Lang chi-chao, got hold of our books and the books got sold to them. They adopted the teaching of our books, and drew up a programme of reform mainly on the principles laid down in them. Afterwards they got ten thousand students to affix their names to it and published it throughout the Empire. It produced a profound impression. For this reason largely, Kang-yu-wei had previously put himself forward as the new interpreter of the ancient Chinese classics. He said that the old standard commentaries were not true interpreters of the teachings of the ancient sages. Accordingly he wrote a commentary for all the Chinese classics on a new basis, and he told me that the two main things underlying the teaching were these, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of nations—the two main commandments, the foundations on which we can build up a Christian China. That as I said, produced a profound impression outside the Christian church, but it was all in the direction of the Christian church. The missionaries were besieged, almost in every province, by enquirers of a different kind altogether. Formerly they had been mainly from amongst the poorer classes, now the educated classes of the land went to the missionaries everywhere, and sought for light upon all problems in the uplifting of the nation. That was a tremendous change, which, as you know, so affected the Empress Dowager that she deposed the Emperor and took his place. She took measures against the reform movement and executed a number of reformers. But these two leaders escaped. And now, the remarkable thing is this, that the Empress Dowager, who took hold of the reins of government expressly for the purpose of checking the reform movement, has been compelled to turn round and sanction decrees allowing almost everything which was conceded by the Emperor before."

Literary Note.

GREAT FACTS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING. By Geo. B. McLeod, M. A., Truro, N. S. Published by William Briggs Toronto. This is really a volume of sermons.

They were preached by the author to his own congregation and found so helpful that he was led to publish them in book form with the view of reaching a wider constituency.

The introduction affirms that "this is a book of fundamentals. God, Christ, the life now present, the life to come—these are the themes. They are the themes that never lose interest; they touch that which is deepest and most worth while; God in life, and life in God, and for God and the treatment corresponds. The writer has read much, has thought long and deeply, has translated his thinking into strenuous living. He speaks out of the fulness of experience. It is this which, gives these chapters their hold."

Mr. McLeod thinks for himself and presents his thoughts in a vigorous forceful manner. The lessons taught ought to be helpful and should inspire to right and noble living. If life is spared the author will be heard from again and rightly so. The work of the publisher is well done.