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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to recent demands for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of reporting all necessary statistics of our Sabbath Schools, as well as preparing the returns asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Roll, 60 cents per doz. Price of School Registers 20 cents each. Address—

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Notes of the Week.

It is stated that so far, Dr. Brown, of Newton Limavady, has been nominated by the greatest number of Presbyteries for the Moderatorship of the Irish Presbyterian General Assembly, and is, therefore, likely to be the occupant of the chair for the coming year. The Assembly meets the first week in June.

PROF. CALDERWOOD, in the address to the graduates at the close of the term in Edinburgh University, declared that all citizens must be free to enter our national universities and to choose their own fields of study without any restriction. That freedom, he added amid loud applause, should belong to the women as well as to the men.

THE *Dundee Advertiser* states that in a Presbyterian Church not a hundred miles from that city a new beadle was lately being appointed, and that among his other qualifications the minister's wife insisted that he must be young and good-looking. Should this innovation become general, it adds, then farewell to the pawky, old-fashioned, self-important persons whom Dean Ramsay and others have made historical.

THE Ontario School of Elocution and Oratory announce a summer session at Grimsby Park. The term will extend over six weeks, commencing July 6th and ending August 14th. The course offers special advantages to teachers, clergymen, lawyers, students and others. The fees will be found reasonable, and the arrangements generally cannot fail to be satisfactory. Full information can be obtained by corresponding with Mr. A. C. Mounteer, 144 Mill Street, London, Ont.

It is stated that Dr. James Macaulay, in the graceful little memoir of Dr. George Wilson, brother of Sir Daniel Wilson, which he has written for the new biographical series of the Religious Tract Society, is by no means entirely beholden to Jessie Aitken Wilson's exquisite biography of her brother. He draws upon his personal knowledge of Wilson not only as a fellow-student but also as a friend from the time of his first entering college till the close of his life. The sketch could not possibly have been better done.

THE following is told of Mr. Spurgeon: A young man of intellectual pretensions, who had been reading Mr. Herbert Spencer, found himself one day in the company of Mr. Spurgeon. "But I do not belong to your school, Mr. Spurgeon," said he, with a touch of pride; "I should inform you, sir, that I am an Agnostic." "An Agnostic?" replied the preacher; "that is Greek, is it not?" "I believe so," said the youth. "Of which," continued the preacher, "the Latin equivalent is Ignoramus, is it not?" A question which reduced, as Dr. Samuel Johnson might have said, the ambitious aspirant for fame from a perpendicular to a horizontal form.

THE Ministerial Efficiency Committee of the English Presbyterian Church are to propose at the Synod a searching triennial visitation of congregations by Presbyteries. They have further agreed to the resolution adopted on the subject by the London Presbytery, North, and will ask the Synod to enact, that, if the unsatisfactory nature of any congregation be found to be due in the main to the imprudence, inefficiency, or unsuitability of the

minister, and the local Presbytery, after exhausting ordinary means of remedy, find that there is no likelihood of the ends of Christian ministry being attained by the minister in that charge, the Presbytery may dissolve the pastoral tie, subject to complaint and appeal in ordinary form. It is stated that to all appearance this proposal will be accepted by the Synod.

WE understand, says the *British Weekly*, that the Rev. Dr. Norman Walker, of Dysart, the accomplished editor of the *Free Church Monthly*, has been appointed the next Chalmers lecturer. We believe Dr. Walker proposes to take as his subject the history of the Free Church and to publish the volume in the jubilee year, 1893. It will be impossible to write such a book to the satisfaction of all, but Dr. Walker has admirable and eminent qualifications, alike in the way of graphic literary powers, and of perfect and personal knowledge of the whole history of the Church. We hope he will not stint himself in space, at least in the first edition, but will give us in appendices those references and notes which so greatly further the work of the enquirer.

THE *Indian Methodist Witness* is not quite pleased with Dr. Pentecost. It has "the impression that Dr. Pentecost was for some time entertained by private friends." It gives "the flattest and plainest denial that words could convey" to Dr. Pentecost's statement that "no class could possibly be held in greater disesteem than missionaries in general." As to the results of Dr. Pentecost's work, it says that "great and regular church-goers have received the largest share of blessing", that "the effort to reach the higher classes was not largely or strikingly successful," and that "the work for Bengalis, though certainly touching many hearts and minds, and affording a powerful witness for the truth, has not yet, we believe, resulted in any definite breakings from Hinduism." It advises him to keep to preaching, and let criticism of fellow-workers alone.

A REGULAR correspondent of the *Belfast Witness* writes: The meeting of the Synod of Belfast caused some little stir in ecclesiastical circles. Not a great deal, indeed, for there is no very important business just now to excite attention. The Church is prosperous—the Sustentation Fund is flourishing—and no heresy raises its head to disturb men's minds. Even the approaching end of the truce in regard to Instrumental Music—the five years during which it was to last expire in June—perturbs no man's mind, for no man believes that there is the slightest chance of the old hostilities breaking out afresh. I hear, indeed, that the resolution which has lain on the books of the General Assembly ever since 1884 will probably be moved in June next. This resolution is "to rescind the decisions of 1883 and 1884 on the subject of instrumental music in public worship, and to carry out the prohibition of 1882." This prohibition was passed in that year by 360 to 345.

IN an address to students recently, Mr. Spurgeon dwelt on the necessity of preaching the truth definitely, and said he was afraid it was with some preachers as with the school teacher in the Southern States of America, who taught that the world was as flat as a pancake. A visitor asked him, "Do you teach your children that the world is round or flat?" His reply was "Yes." "But," said the enquirer, "that is not the answer I want. Do you teach them that it is round or that it is flat?" "Oh," said the teacher, "that depends upon the wishes of the parents." Speaking further on the subject of compromise, Mr. Spurgeon told a story of a beggar who had lately asked an east-end minister for relief, and finding that he did not make much impression, said, "O, sir, you would give me something if you knew how I had been benefited under your ministry. When you first came I neither cared for God nor the devil, but under your blessed ministry I have come to love them both." There were many persons who liked any sort of doctrine as long as clever men preached it.

THE Rev. Mr. Wells, of Pollokshields, writes from Palestine that he finds great progress in agriculture in the plain of Sharon, as compared with seven years ago. Orange culture is being fostered there by the Rothschilds. Mr. Wells gives a graphic description of the reception of his party by a Bedouin chief, who extended to them a hospitality which reminded him of Old Testament scenes on the same spot—the far south of Palestine. The chief proposed to kill sheep and so on, as Abraham did for the angels. Unfortunately, the chief contrived to spoil the Abrahamic parallel. He tried to steal a topcoat! After that the party could not be expected to feel angelic any longer. They got the coat back by threatening the chief with imprisonment. Mr. Wells finds Jerusalem greatly enlarged and extended. Seven years ago it contained only 19,000 Jews; now the number is reckoned by the British Consul at 40,000, and by others at 60,000. The census or "taxing" is still as unpopular there as it was 1,900 years ago. About 2,000 new houses are about to be built in the Jews' quarter. Hebron has a large hotel, a good carriage road, and omnibuses running to Jerusalem. Those who wish to see the Holy Land before it loses all its native Eastern simplicity must hurry up. The railway will soon connect Jerusalem with the Mediterranean.

THE report of the Commission on the housing of the Glasgow poor, a document of considerable value, says the *Christian Leader*, in spite of the fact that the Commission has unnecessarily limited the scope of its enquiries, was the subject recently of an interesting debate in Glasgow Presbytery, by whom it was resolved to transmit the report to the Home Mission Committee that they may submit it for the consideration of the General Assembly. It was further agreed to appoint a committee to communicate with public bodies and influential citizens for the purpose of promoting a conference or otherwise to enlist public sympathy so as to secure some practical results in the interests of the poor. Perhaps the report contains no more startling fact than this, that there is an army of 135,000 continually marching in Scotland who live on the alms extorted by false representations and not infrequently by threats. This vast army costs between two and three millions sterling! Dr. Donald Macleod emphatically expressed the opinion that no man should be allowed to wander about the country extorting support; after a certain number of convictions of vagrancy, he would have the State entrusted with the power to send him to a labour colony where work would be compulsory. Dr. Marshall Lang justly eulogized the report for its extreme caution and sobriety, in which respect it presents a gratifying contrast to such sensational documents as the "Bitter Cry of Outcast London."

THE *Belfast Witness* says: We understand that the Rev. Wm. Park, M.A., Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church, has been asked to be one of the summer preachers in St. Giles', Edinburgh. As most of our readers are aware, St. Giles' is the old historic church in which John Knox preached, and in which so many scenes memorable in the history of Presbyterianism have taken place. Since its restoration by Dr. Chambers it is one of the largest and most beautiful churches in the kingdom, and especially during the summer months is crowded with worshippers from all parts of the world. It contains the Royal pew which the Queen's Commissioner occupies during the General Assembly. It is the official church of that Supreme Court during its annual sitting. It contains the official seats of the Queen's chaplains in Scotland, and also of Her Majesty's Judges, and is the place where all religious functions connected with the University of Edinburgh are performed. It contains monuments to many illustrious Scotsmen, and its arches are hung with the colours of many famous Scottish regiments. Since the days of Knox its pulpit has been occupied at one time or another by nearly every name renowned in the history of Presbyterianism. We are glad that the Church of Scotland has paid such a compliment to Rev. Mr. Park and to the Church which he so worthily represents.