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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 frequent demands for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., Convener of the General Assembly of 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, 6 cents per doz. Price of School Registers 10 cents each. Address—

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Notes of the Week.

A SCOTTISH contemporary states that the Rev. Andrew Mearns was much taken aback recently by the visit of a stranger to his office, who left on his table several heavy brown paper bags with the simple remark: "Here's something for you." On opening them they were found to be full of gold—an offering of \$10,000 to work among the poor.

AN English contemporary states that *Le Bon Messenger*, the mission boat of the McAll Mission, has commenced its evangelizing voyage at Meaux, the old town of Bossuet, "l'aigle de Meaux." M. Reveillaud, the gifted evangelist, has opened the campaign, and much success has attended his meetings. Crowded audiences and great attention have been the encouraging tokens granted. The boat will spend some time in the Marne, visiting the accessible places, large and small.

THE Rev. H. Price Hughes, M.A., gave an address in St. James Hall, London, recently, on "Party Politics." It has been said that Christians ought not to take any part in politics, but that was a mischievous statement. Party politics in this country could never be raised out of the vulgar rut into which they sometimes fell unless Christian men—and women, too—took an active part in them. How was it that politicians whose goodness and sincerity was not doubted spent so large a portion of their speech in abuse of their opponents? The Speaker of the House of Commons had power to repress personalities there; why did not the chairman at political meetings use the same power?

AT the two-monthly meeting of the Irish Presbyterian Mission Board, held in Belfast, the Conveners of the several missions reported the funds of each mission in a more healthy state than they were at this time last year. The Foreign Mission especially found itself with a good balance to credit. The Conveners, Rev. W. Park, M.A., and Dr. Barkley, presented Mr. W. H. Gillespie, M.A., a licentiate of the Newry Presbytery, to the Board for service in India, and Mr. Gillespie was accordingly appointed to Gujarat. Dr. Barkley stated that Mrs. Fitzimons, widow of a Chinese missionary who died about a year ago, shortly after arriving in that country, was organizing a Sabbath school fund for maintaining another missionary in China, to be known as "the Children's Missionary." The Board sanctioned her undertaking, and instructed the Conveners to look out for a suitable man.

A SPECIAL contribution of Rev. John McNeill in the *Dundee Advertiser* concludes: Superficial hearers may imagine that he is deficient in culture and refinement. It is not so. Sacred things are not touched with a rude or too familiar hand. But he is too wise to sacrifice interest, power and influence to a pretence of shallow culture. Whether he is a classical scholar or no, others may judge; but he is an English scholar of no mean rank. He quotes Wordsworth and John Milton as if they were his constant companions. To the stately prose of John Milton he owes the sustained grandeur in which he displays his high commission to sinful men which he has received at the Throne of Grace. One can hear Shakespeare in every other sentence. Burns he quotes as he quotes the book of Proverbs; and the adroit manner in which he avoids entangling his argument in the toils of perplexity proves

his manifest acquaintance with systematic theology. Above all, he has mastered the finest book in the English language—the English Bible.

THE *Chicago Interior* says. It is a noble work which Trinity Church, New York, has undertaken in connection with its mission below Washington Square. The great religious corporation has purchased, it seems, two entire blocks there upon which it will plant not only a church, but a school and hospital, and many other beneficent institutions. But before the plan is fully determined, we would advise the trustees in charge to visit and inspect the great Armour Mission of Chicago. We have seen a good deal of kindly work in the cities of two continents, but nothing which for practical wisdom and spiritual success and self-perpetuating power equals this work so little known even to residents of Chicago. We hope this little paragraph will induce some to whom it may be an unknown land to visit it, and to see with their own eyes a veritable oasis whose fertility is bound to prove expansive.

THE Rev. James L. Blake, minister of Langton, near Duns, died recently after two days' illness from apoplexy. Arrangements had been made for the election of a colleague, and Mr. Blake was to have preached his farewell sermon on the following Sabbath. Mr. Blake was a native of Aberdeen, the eldest of five sons of the late Mr. James Blake, a well-known citizen of that town. Four of the sons became ministers, three of them in connection with the Free Church. Deceased was licensed in 1846, ordained at Stobo, Peebleshire, in 1850, and translated to Langton in 1867. He took great interest in philosophical studies, and was at one time a frequent contributor to magazines and editor of the *Missionary Record* of the Church. Mr. Blake, who was in his seventy-second year, was predeceased by his wife a short time ago. Their elder son is a minister of Temple, Mid-Lothian.

THERE were amusing pieces of by-play at the Presbyterian missionary meeting held recently in Exeter Hall, London. Dr. Pentecost, who was last on the list of speakers, said that if any one left before the end he would take it as a sign that they did not care for missions. A few minutes afterwards Dr. Pierson rose and solemnly walked out. "Dr. Pierson does care for missions," was the ready apology of his countryman; "he had to go." Dr. Pentecost amused the meeting by turning round and crying: "John Smith, you go to India for five months. Monro Gibson, you go to India for five months." He further asked all who were prepared to double their contributions to Foreign Missions to stand up. About half the audience rose. Dr. Pentecost suggested the true explanation of the stopping of the Exeter Hall clock. "At the meeting of the C.M.S.," he said, "they attempted to confine the speakers within fifteen minutes each. It so worried that old clock that it stopped." There was a hearty cheer, says the correspondent of the *British Weekly*, when the Rev. John Smith, a well-known figure on Edinburgh platforms, came forward to give a "special address." He pointed out that his own Church was seeing great days in mission work. Some years ago there was a large deficit, and candidates were not to be had; this year there is a large working balance, and the men are coming in in greater numbers than they can be employed. Mr. Smith has the *perferendum ingenium*, and his enthusiasm was contagious. He said that generations, like individuals, have their great testing moments, and the missionary opportunity was the testing-stone of the nineteenth century.

THE appointment of a secretary for the English Congregational Union has occasioned not a little personal controversy. This has arisen out of the antagonism of Dr. Joseph Parker to the popular nominee, the Rev. W. T. Woods, of Clapton. A charge of plagiarism was brought against him. A discourse of his bore a resemblance to one by Principal Oswald Dykes on the same subject. Mr. Woods admitted in an explanation that he had read

Dr. Dykes' sermon and adopted some passages from it. He was elected secretary despite Dr. Parker's objections. In connection with this matter the *Christian Leader* says: Dr. Oswald Dykes has been dragged into the "sermon transference" discussion in a very unpleasant manner. When Mr. J. Guinness Rogers argued that too much ought not to be made of the similarities between sermons on the same text, he stated, as an instance of how it might be pushed too far, that a Presbyterian who burrows at the British Museum had written him to say that he had discovered a sermon by a Scotchman, one William Cruden, who was minister at Covent Garden last century, with passages akin to some parts of Dr. Dykes' sermon. This immensely tickled his audience as a humorous reduction of plagiarism-hunting to an absurdity. The reporters, as well as Dr. Parker, seem to have taken it seriously, and for a time it almost looked as if Dr. Dykes himself might prove to be a "conveyancing" preacher in spite of the ridiculousness of such an idea. Fortunately Dr. Dykes had never read William Cruden, and at once contradicted the bare possibility of his sermon being influenced by him; Mr. Rogers immediately denied having made any such imputation. And so the distinguished tutor of young preachers comes out of an unpleasant scrimmage as sound in pulpit practice as he is in theological teaching.

THE *Scotsman* publishes the forecast of the business of the forthcoming General Assemblies of the Established and Free Churches. Regarding the Established Assembly it says: The Assembly promises to be of special interest only in one or two directions. During the bygone year the general work of the Church seems to have been characterized by steady but uneventful progress, and the business likely to come before the House in connection with that general work will in all probability not evoke very much discussion. With regard to the Free Church Assembly it is said that the time and attention of the fathers and brethren are likely to be concentrated mainly on two subjects—the passing of the Declaratory Act, and the filling up of a vacant professorial chair. Last Assembly, it may be remembered, ordered the Declaratory Act to be sent down to Presbyteries, under the Barrier Act, for approval or disapproval. It is a matter of notoriety that the Act has given rise to a good deal of discussion in the inferior courts. As the result, it is understood that, so far, the Act has been approved by a majority of thirty-one Presbyteries, while some have yet to forward their returns. The topic next in importance, perhaps, is that relating to the appointment of a successor to the Rev. Principal Douglas in the Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis Chair of the Glasgow College, this venerable divine having resigned. As to the Principalship, it is generally believed that Dr. Douglas will be requested to retain that position, but it seems doubtful whether he will, in all the circumstances, do so. Regarding the professorial vacancy, the names of no fewer than seventeen clergymen have been recommended by Presbyteries, including the Rev. G. A. Smith, Aberdeen; the Rev. Professor Harper, Melbourne; the Rev. Dr. Stalker, Glasgow; and the Rev. N. D. McLachlan, Dalkeith. The election, it is confidently predicted, will be between the son of the Church's Foreign Mission Secretary and the Australian Professor. There is only one other vacant professorial chair at this time, that of Evangelistic Theology in the Edinburgh College, caused by the resignation of the Rev. Professor Thomas Smith. The opinion is held that a successor will not be appointed this year, there being some preliminary questions to be first disposed of. Unlike the document submitted on the same subject to the United Presbyterian Church Synod the other day, the report to be presented on Disestablishment is said to be very brief, and to contain nothing of fresh interest. Consequently the debate is not expected to be of an outstanding character. The statement made by the Laymen's League will come before the Business Committee on the opening day of the Assembly, and it will be for them to decide whether the communication will be brought before the House.