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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

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Notes of the Week.

By a new regulation, all Prussian pastors who wish to marry are required to announce the fact and to give in the name of their intended wife to the nearest "consistorium" three weeks before the marriage. The reason of this rule is that so many pastors have neglected to insure their wives in the Widows' Institute.

MR. MARK BOYD, author of the "Reminiscences of Fifty Years," mentions that a Scotch gentleman of fortune on his deathbed asked the minister whether, if he left a large sum to the Kirk, his salvation would be secured? The cautious minister responded—"I would not like to be positive, but it's weel worth trying."

THE Belfast Presbytery, at a recent meeting, appointed the Rev. R. T. Bailey, M.A., of Carlow, to succeed the late Rev. R. Dunlop in the charge of St. Andrews Church, Nassau, Bahamas. The Church Extension Committee of the Presbytery hope soon to take steps towards the erection of a new church at Willowfield, a rapidly extending suburb of the city.

AN exchange says: Principal King, of Manitoba, who is at present in Scotland, preached at Burnt-Island on a recent Sunday in the pulpit of his old friend, the Rev. James Parlane, A.M. At the close of two able discourses, the Rev. Principal referred to the work and progress of the Presbyterian Church in the far North-West, and the care exercised over settlers from the old country.

SAYS the New York *Independent*: Scarcely anything has on it such a patent look of absurdity and humbuggery as the experiments which are now making, under the authority of Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture, to produce rain by explosions. It is well to have the experiments made, we doubt not, though not for their effect upon the atmosphere, rather on the brains of those who secured the appropriation.

AN unseemly wrangle took place at a meeting of the Caithness Free Presbytery. One of the members objected to the minutes being passed on a point of order, and although the Moderator ruled the objection out of order, the member persisted in arguing the case. An appeal for support by the Moderator brought several gentlemen to their feet, but the disputant was not silenced until a brother clergyman laid his walking-stick across his shoulders with a peremptory demand to sit down.

IN 1886, the Committee of the Church Missionary Society passed the resolution never to refuse a candidate for missionary service on the ground of lack of funds to send him out. There was to be as much care as ever taken in selection, but, once selected, there was no question about the missionary's being sent. During the four years since then 230 names have been added to the roll, and after deducting deaths and retirements the total number has increased from 309 to about 480, including those accepted but not yet sent.

IN 1879 some Waldensian and foreign young ladies settled in Mantua, the birthplace of Virgil, hired a room at their own expense, and invited the

pastors of a couple of towns not far distant to come and hold services for them. There is now an influential congregation of fifty members, in good part converts from Romanism, a Sabbath-school and Bible class, ministered to by an active pastor. So is the Gospel pervading the whole of Italy. The congregations are small, but they are in all the provinces, and their influence is beginning to be felt.

THE eighty-seventh annual report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, now being sent to subscribers, shows that the total issues of the Scriptures during the year amounted to 3,926,535—an increase of 134,272 on the preceding twelve months. During the same period the total net receipts were \$1,085,744, but the expenditure exceeded this sum by \$72,159. This is the third year in succession in which the payments have been largely in excess of the receipts, amounting in the aggregate to a deficiency of over \$215,000.

A CONTEMPORARY says: Among the graduates who received the degree of M.B., C.M., at the recent capping in Edinburgh, was Mr. James Burnett Smith, the husband of the well-known novelist, Annie S. Swan. Mr. Smith was an assistant teacher in a school in Mid-Lothian when he married Miss Swan about six years ago. He was afterwards headmaster in a school near Markinch, Fifeshire. Mrs. Smith has depicted this locality in one of the best of her works, "The Gates of Eden." They removed to Edinburgh four years ago when Mr. Smith commenced to study medicine.

THE Belfast *Witness* says: Another of the older clergy of the Irish Presbyterian Church has passed away—the Rev. Simpson Gabriel Morrison, senior minister of Union Chapel, Dublin. The sad event took place on Monday last at his residence, Rosemount Terrace, North Circular Road, Dublin. By this death the metropolis loses one of its worthiest citizens, who for many years laboured there ably and earnestly, and the whole Church is deprived of the services of one who was a general favourite wherever he was known, and who in his palmy days was reputed to be one of the most eloquent preachers connected with the General Assembly. The Rev. S. Prenter delivered the address at his funeral, and dwelt largely upon Mr. Morrison's character and career.

AN exchange says: Lord Dufferin told the people of Belfast recently that he would shortly terminate his career as a diplomat and that when that happy release arrives he hoped to become more closely connected with the city and corporation in whose ears he was speaking. Belfast, it seems, is rejoicing in the gift of a five-acre park, valued at over \$40,000, from Mr. R. G. Dunville, a distiller, who has also handed the mayor a cheque for \$25,000, to enclose and beautify the land, and erect a fountain and keeper's house upon it. It was to open this park the noble Marquis went to Ulster's capital, eulogized it as the third great commercial city of the empire, and in the proverbial kindness of his heart expressed that fervent wish to retire from the service of his country only to enter the service of Belfast.

DR. CAMPBELL of Collingwood, who has returned from a three months' trip to the West Coast, says that the British Columbia literati of the Scalene Triangle—Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster—are greatly excited over the establishing of a Provincial University. The feeling runs high at present as to where it should be located, each city claiming to have advantages superior to the others. It is strange that learned men should be more exercised over the location than the proficiency of an institution of learning. The Doctor thinks that there is greater need for a good Young Ladies Seminary than for a University. It is a crying shame he says for the province, its cities, and wealthy citizens that young ladies have to go 3,000 miles away from home to get a good education, yet the literary oracles of British Columbia say nothing about it.

AT the opening of an industrial exhibition in Cleland Public School, Dr. James MacGregor, Moderator of the General Assembly, said that whatever tended to brighten, ennoble and beautify the home had a mighty influence upon the nation. Any attempts at social improvement on the part of the people that left the home out of the question were doomed to failure. The cure of the public-house was the home, and for all their social evils there was no other cure, and never would be to the end of the world. Scotch people possessed an innate sense of the beautiful, but it was not developed. With some exceptions, their churches were not beautiful, their villages were not beautiful, and many of their homes were not beautiful; but a change for the better was taking place, and every exhibition such as that helped to supplement what he thought had been a deficiency in Scotch training in bygone times.

PROFESSOR SETH, of Dalhousie College, Halifax, has put forth a book, entitled "Freedom as Ethical Postulate," published by Blackwood of Edinburgh. The subject is one of the most difficult in philosophy. Speaking of the formation of character, Professor Seth sees, even when the progress has been towards evil, "a gleam of hope, a suggestion and no more, of the final possibility, even for the most debased, of moral recovery." On the other side the gradation is upward. "Moral progress is a progress from nature and its bondage, through freedom and duty, to that love or 'second nature' which alone is the 'fulfilling of the law.' . . . Freedom made perfect consists in the entire surrender of the human will to the divine, in such a surrender as does not mean the loss of human personality, but rather its perfect fulfilment and realization in the identification of man's will with the will of God."

THE New York *Independent*, commenting on the recent collapse of a building in that city, says: Rarely has an accident struck more horror into a community than that which occurred in New York last week. The suddenness which gave no time for escape, and the awful death that came to its victims, were made still more vivid by the uncertainty as to who were buried under that seething mass of machinery, timber and brick, and the almost impossibility of recognizing those who, after long delay, were taken out. Added to all there was the assurance that it was needless. The cyclone at Martinique caused wide disaster, but against that no human care could provide. This was somebody's fault. If it be true that insurance companies knew the building to be unsafe, and would only take low risks at very high prices, what shall we say of those who, rather than incur the expense of strengthening the walls, allowed a hundred lives to be sacrificed? There should be prompt, thorough investigation, and if it be found that there has been criminal carelessness, the punishment should be equally decisive.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE, in a speech at the laying of the foundation stone of the Free Library of Peterhead, said: King James knew that the Church of his countrymen was not to be made the tool of arbitrary power; that its heart was with the people, and its leaders staunch in the cause of their country's liberties, both religious and civil. Thus the Presbyterian Church, with its strong undiluted Calvinism, has always carried with it an equally strong infusion of democracy in its constitution. Knox, having been an advanced man in his day and generation, would have been an advanced man even in this, probably stirring them up in Scotland to still further efforts in the cause of education. It is said that most of Washington's army was composed of Scotch and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. Their influence prevailed in framing the Constitution of the United States, which provides for the toleration and equality of all sects—all being protected, none favoured. Thus the influence of the democratic Church of Scotland is not confined to its own home, but extends throughout the world, liberalizing institutions, and ever upon the side of the people.