

OUR PUBLICATIONS.

Christian Guardian, weekly	\$1 00
Methodist Magazine and Review, monthly	2 00
Magazine and Review, and Guardian or Wesleyan	2 75
Magazine and Review, Guardian and Onward	3 25
The Wesleyan, Halifax, weekly	1 00
Sunday-school Banner, monthly	0 60
Onward, 8pp. 4to, weekly, under 5 copies	0 60
5 copies and upwards	0 50
Pleasant Hours, 4pp. 4to, weekly, single copies	0 30
Less than 20 copies	0 25
Over 20 copies	0 24
Sunbeam, fortnightly, less than 10 copies	0 15
10 copies and upwards	0 12
Happy Days, fortnightly, less than 10 copies	0 15
10 copies and upwards	0 12
Dew Drops, weekly, per year	0 07
Per quarter	0 02
Berean Leaves, 100 copies per month	5 50
Berean Quarterly, 100 copies per quarter	6 00
Quarterly Review Service. By the year, 24 cents a dozen; \$2 per 100. Per quarter, 6 cents a dozen; per 100	0 50

Address— WILLIAM BRIGGS,
Publisher, Toronto.

C. W. COATES, S. F. HUESTIS,
2176 St. Catherine St., Meth. Book Room,
Montreal, Que. Halifax, N.S.

Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITTHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1897.

St. Paul's Trial and Martyrdom.

BY REV. E. R. YOUNG.

As regards the events and incidents in connection with the last trial, and the martyrdom of St. Paul, while a great deal that is mythical and fabulous has gathered, not much that can really be depended upon is known.

According to the best authority available, Paul gained his crown of martyrdom in June, 64 A.D., in the time of the terrible persecution under Nero, and probably before either Timothy or Mark was able to reach him.

The cause of that dreadful persecution of the Christians, in the time of that most cruel emperor, was this: A great fire broke out in Rome shortly after the return of Nero from the East. Instead of being concerned at its ravages, and the loss of his people, the callous tyrant, so we are told by Suetonius, was greatly delighted with the beautiful effects of the conflagration, and so, putting on the

tragic dress he wore upon the stage, he sang a poem, that had been composed on the ruins of Troy. Instead of taking energetic measures for checking the fire, this inhuman monster sent out men, who, pretending to be drunk, or mad, added to the conflagration, by starting fresh fires in various parts of the city.

So extensive at length became the ruins and the losses, as the fire raged unceasingly from six to nine days, according to different authorities, that the indignation of the citizens was so aroused, that Nero's fiddlings and dancings were turned into fears for his own safety.

To save himself from the murmurs and odiums of the people, he had reports circulated that the Christians were the incendiaries, and at once began the terrible persecution.

Paul, the apostle, now, after his two years' residence and labours in Rome, and undoubtedly the leader of the Christians, would naturally be one of the first to suffer.

Of the nature of his trial we have no particulars, but the site of the place where he made his appeal can still be visited. It is amidst the ruins of the palace of Domitian, on the Palatine Hill. Here are to be found the ruins of a Hall of Justice, built above the original one, which was burnt in the reign of Titus.

Although the present ruins are thirty feet above the original structure, yet they are interesting and suggestive. As the original structure was a consecrated building, Domitian, in rebuilding, would be obliged to erect the one he put up on exactly the same model, and so, as we there looked upon the ruins, we saw very vividly how that Hall of Justice must have looked at the time of Paul's trial. Still are to be seen the ruins of the judge's seat, the wide nave, and the narrow aisles, the broken columns, and, most suggestive of all, the round flat stone in the pavement, on which the prisoner was obliged to stand.

As the various ruins were being so interestingly described to us by Dr. Forbes, it did not require much stretch of the imagination to picture the scene when that great apostle there stood, and heard his sentence of death, from that cowardly tyrannical emperor, who, to shield himself from the odium of his people, had, perhaps, even before the trial, doomed this glorious man to martyrdom.

In Roman jurisprudence there was generally no time allowed between the sentence and the execution. Our dear