

he says, "and when James, Cephas and John, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship." There is something which lies back of the call of the Church to be a minister, and that is the call of God. It is this which gives meaning to a pastor's ordination. It is this which gives him a place in the true succession of Christian men and women. But without it the Papal tiara and crozier, the cardinal's hats, the bishop's lawn, the minister's robe, are only like the sign-board over an empty shop. If so, then let the vain fancy of apostolic succession be given up, and let Christians consecrate themselves to the work which it has pleased God to assign to them of proclaiming a free and full gospel of salvation.

### Correspondence.

#### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR,—It has been well remarked in a recent number of the INDEPENDENT that the Sunday school question is one of the greatest now before the Christian Church.

The importance of instilling in the minds of the young a knowledge of God's love for them, leading their affections to gather about and centre in Him as their Chief Friend, is more generally acknowledged than it used to be, and yet when the interest of parents in their children is considered, it is surprising that far greater attention is not given to this vital portion of their education.

Solomon says, "Train up a child in the way he should go," and what way is better than a fearless loving trust in God? I cannot abide the remarks of some parents who, while utterly neglecting their children, have told me in just so many words that they did not feel responsible for their conversion because God alone could change their hearts. On the other hand the hesitancy manifested by many Christians in talking to the young of Jesus and His love must largely, if not entirely, result from the fact that they do not themselves live in the enjoyment of their high calling, a life-long stumbling block to their usefulness in the grandest earthly sphere of labour.

For the children of such parents, as well as for those whose parents have no interest in Bible teaching, there is great need of Sunday schools with teachers whose love for their Master leads them gladly to embrace the opportunity of engaging in so noble a work. Naturally enough these classes show less interest in their children attending Sunday school than is shown by those most active in Christian work, but the chief, if not the only opposition to Sunday schools has, in my experience, been manifested by those whose lives have most palpably negatived very high professions.

Much of the success of the Sunday school depends on its guidance and government in the various exercises which, with the lesson, make up the school hour. Scholars become attached to teachers who take an interest in them and show it whenever they meet; they become attached to the school largely through the pleasure afforded by its exercises.

Our school-room is cheerful and bright, the walls are white and set off with mottoes; behind the superintendent's desk is a blackboard on which the Golden Text is written in illuminated letters, and to the right of the desk a large bouquet of flowers on a stand. The Bible classes and infant class are divided from the body of the school by sliding windows which are closed during the teaching of the lesson. The librarians have a separate room; and water taps and closets are conveniently placed, though experience proves that scholars should rarely be allowed to leave their classes for a drink.

Punctually at three o'clock a hymn is given out and

heartily sung with piano accompaniment; then a portion of the Scriptures is read, the superintendent and scholars reading alternate verses. A short prayer and another hymn lead on to the lesson teaching for forty minutes: after the lesson a hymn, and the attendance, with the amount of missionary collection. The scholars next recite the verses of the day, class by class, and listen to an address on the lesson, or, other topic and the school is closed, by singing and prayer, at 4:15 p.m.

These exercises will appear ordinary enough; and yet we all like our school, and our numbers have more than doubled within a year. A good deal of the success is due to the tact of the superintendent in constantly varying the character of the exercises, adding or dropping a portion as occasion suggests, calling on the scholars to recite one of the Psalms learned, or the Commandments, or unite in the Lord's Prayer and having the addresses short and the general tenor of the exercises fresh and attractive. C. C.

Montreal, Aug. 1st, 1879.

### News of the Churches.

REV. HUGH PEDLEY has returned from his camping and canoeing.

REV. C. DUFF, M.A., of Speedside, is to supply the Hamilton Church on the 24th inst.

MR. CHARLES PEDLEY, B.A., will preach in the Western Church, Sunday the 24th inst.

REV. A. O. COSSAR, of Belleville, has returned home from his visit to the sea-side thoroughly recruited.

THE corner stone of the new Congregational Church in Unionville will be laid on Friday, the 22nd inst., at 4 o'clock.

YORKVILLE Church was supplied last Sunday morning by T. W. Handford, and Bond street by Joseph Griffith.

REV. DR. WILKES is spending a few weeks at Saratoga. We trust that the Doctor will return strong for his winter's work with the students.

WE congratulate the Rev. A. Duff, of Sherbrooke, on the honour recently conferred on him. The University of Vermont has given him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

REV. J. L. FORSTER has been supplying St. John's, Newfoundland, for some two months, while the Rev. Thos. Hall, of the latter place, has been supplying Calvary Church, Montreal, for the same time.

WE see by the London dispatches of the "Globe" that it is likely that the resignation of Rev. R. W. Wallace will be withdrawn. His reason for offering it, as expressed to the church, was chiefly a lack of interest and co-operation on the part of his brethren in the church.

THE children of the Congregational Sunday school in St. Catharines and the school at Grantham, with their friends, went last week in thirteen well filled vehicles to the Eight Mile Creek for their annual picnic. Both the day and the place were beautiful, and all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

WE see by Winnipeg papers that our friends in that city held a very interesting meeting in the Temperance Hall on the 31st of July. The Rev. R. Mackay presided, and delivered an address from Isaiah i. 18. The Rev. W. Ewing followed and the Rev. D. McGregor led in prayer. The audience is said to have been a large one.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that the Church in Acton, Ont., has a more encouraging aspect than formerly. Student McIntyre has laboured faithfully during his summer vacation. He has opened a new preaching station with good prospect of success. The Sabbath school is growing in interest and usefulness. As Mr. McIntyre will be soon leaving for college, it is greatly desired that some one be ready to at once step in and carry on the work.

ON Friday evening, the 8th inst., a number of the friends of Rev. B. W. Day, of Cowansville, assembled at the parsonage about the time of the arrival of the

train which was to bring Mrs. Day on her return from Ontario, where she had been spending a few weeks among friends. Mrs. Day was agreeably surprised, and a very pleasant evening was spent in social intercourse. Such gatherings are productive of much good, as indicating the good feeling which exists between pastor and people.

### Religious News.

THE king of Southern Abyssinia announces that he has abolished the slave-trade throughout his dominions.

THE sacred mosque of St. Sophia at Constantinople, which has for centuries been guarded against the intrusion of unbelievers, is to be open every Tuesday and Friday for believers of all faiths to attend a lesson for the reconciling the differences of religions.

THERE is now an unbroken chain of communication by steam from England to the northern end of Lake Nyassa in Central Africa, excepting seventy miles of the Murchison Cataracts in the Shire river; and it is ascertained that Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika are but 130 miles apart, instead of 250.

A CENTURY ago the Lutheran Church had only twenty-four ministers in the United States. Now there are 3,150, with 5,600 congregations and 725,000 communicants. Thirty years ago there were only a few scattered Lutherans west of Ohio; now there are 1,702 ministers, 3,001 churches, and 367,180 communicants.

BISHOP STEELE of Zanzibar, on the east coast of Africa, has learned that the Swahili version of the Bible which he translated, is intelligible to some of the tribes on the great central lakes. Mtesa, the king of Uganda, whom Stanley met, understands the language and has been supplied with copies of the translation.

THE population of London is estimated at 3,577,305, of whom fifty-eight per cent. should be able to attend public worship at one time if they had room. The actual provision of sittings by all the religious denominations is but 1,119,776, while it should be 2,074,836. Of the present sittings more than a third are unoccupied.

MR. SPURGEON says that Dr. Blaikie recently wrote him, "I had in my hands the other day one of your sermons, very yellow." It lay embedded in one of Dr. Livingstone's journals—had probably been all over Africa—and had in Livingstone's neat hand the simple words, "very good." "Would you like it?" Of course he sent an earnest request for the yellow relic.

THE chief Rabbis and Presidents of the two principal congregations at Jerusalem have issued an appeal for aid, in consequence of the scarcity of food, due to the adverse harvests in Palestine for the last three years. They state that the condition of poor Jews in Jerusalem is most appalling, as they have neither food nor the means of procuring any. They do not ask for money, but for wheat, barley, flour and other articles of food.

MR. SPURGEON, says the London "News," has been gifted by nature with a voice distinctly audible at the edge of a crowd of 10,000 persons in the open air, and his perfect mastery of his own language is never marred and spoiled, as the far inferior style of many highly-educated people is apt now-a-days to be, by the unseasonable intrusion of foreign idioms. But beyond and above these advantages he has the indefinable power of so saying what he wishes to say as to make it both immediately intelligible and permanently impressive to all who hear him.

A GREAT movement has just been inaugurated against intemperance in Great Britain. It is the formation of a joint-stock company with a million of capital, in shares of one pound each, to provide temperance coffee-houses and temperance places all over the kingdom. The Archbishop of Canterbury is at the top of the list of clergy, and as many names followed in the prospectus, as advertised in the "Times," as nearly fill a column. The coffee-houses already established have done well, and it is quite expected that this new scheme will pay.

IT may be a matter of surprise to many that there is a Christian church in the city of Cabul, Afghanistan. But in the Bella Hissar (or walled fort) and not far from the Ameer's palace, there has been a little Armenian church ever since the days of Nadir Shah, and his little band of Armenian Christians have been allowed to worship their God and Saviour undisturbed in that church all through the many political disturbances and administrative changes that have taken place in that city. At one time there was a considerable number of Armenian Christians in Cabul, but now there are not more than twelve souls. Most of these have received baptism from clergymen of the Church of England.

A NEW Russian sect has arisen in the Donjense district. The prophetess, Xenia Ivanovna Kusmin, is a strikingly handsome peasant woman of twenty-five, who possesses a voice of remarkable power. She has twelve apostles whom she has commissioned to teach her doctrines to the people. Its chief points are that its adherents shall avoid the use of flesh meat, and not recognize marriage nor the authority of the clergy, and that when they meet one another they shall avoid as a great sin holding out their hands to each other. At religious assemblies tea and sweet cakes are used as a corporal refreshment, while it is prescribed as an act of devotion that each person shall kiss every one else. The prophetess and her apostles live together in one large room.