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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. Featheringham, 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 Rolls 60 cents per dot. Price of School Registers 10 cents each. Address—

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## Notes of the Week.

By appointment of the American International Convention and the World's Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations, the week beginning Nov. 8 to Nov. 14 has been designated as a week of prayer for young men.

THE number of French pilgrims to the Vatican has only been 7,000, while in the first year of the present Pontificate there were no fewer than 25,000. This great decrease has taken place in spite of greater facilities of travel and greater hospitalities at the Vatican.

A LETTER from Oporto to the Evangelical Alliance tells how a Protestant at Aviers has been in gaol since Feb. 20 for refusing to take off his hat to a cross carried in a funeral procession. The sentence is one of twelve months' imprisonment, with an extra three months which can be escaped by payment of a fine. The Portuguese constitution grants liberty of conscience "provided that the State religion is respected"—a very elastic proviso.

THE Rev. J. G. Train, of Hull, was one of the speakers at the Evangelical Alliance Conference at Bath. He could hardly have chosen a better or more seasonable topic than the one with which he dealt, namely, "A True View of Sin, a Need of the Age." Rev. Charles Moinet, in a recent address to a student receiving license, laid emphasis on this point, and there can be no doubt that the shallow religiousness of our time is closely connected with a want of just views on this deeply-important subject.

THE *Christian World* says Mrs W H Smith has been created a peeress. Nobody will grudge her the honour. The widow of a worthy, if not a great, statesman is fairly entitled to the rank which was intended for her husband. No precedent is created. Canning's widow was made a peeress, and in like manner, only two months ago, the widow of Sir John Macdonald (who was fortunate in dying before the revelation of the scandalous corruption associated with his administration) was created Baroness Earncliffe. We hope the new peeress, whatever title she may take, will live long to wear it.

THE Rev. Dr. W. Robertson Nicoll, editor of the *Expositor* and the *British Weekly*, has sustained a very severe bereavement in the loss of his father, the Rev. Harry Nicoll, minister of Lumsden Free Church, in the parish of Auchindoir. He was a native of the parish where he was born in 1812, within a mile of where he died. Mr. Nicoll was a man of literary tastes, and collected a library of some 15,000 volumes. The literary talent, which appears so conspicuously in Dr. Robertson Nicoll, was also shared by his younger brother, who died five years ago, and who wrote "Landmarks in English Literature" and some other works.

BETWEEN \$4,000 and \$4,500 has already been subscribed for the special fund of the McAll Mission. This was announced at a meeting at Exeter Hall, London. Altogether \$15,000 is needed to clear off this year's deficit and provide for next year's, till some permanent way is found to increase

the income. The mission is now established in fifty or sixty towns, and Dr. McAll could use 500 workers if he had them. It is suggested that the mission could be made more self-supporting if collections were taken at the meetings. The collection, it is said, is even more a French than an English institution, appearing even at wedding services and at civil marriages.

AN English contemporary says: The Rev. R. M. Thornton, B.A., Camden Road, has just returned from a three months' leave of absence, during which he has visited South Africa, including the gold fields and diamond mines. Services commemorating the eighth anniversary of Mr. Thornton's ministry in Camden Road have been held. A social reunion and welcome home to the pastor was held, when the Rev. J. R. Wood, Upper Holloway, delivered a most earnest and stimulating address. Mr. Thornton opened the session of the literary society by a public lecture entitled, "South Africa Revisited, including a Trip to the Gold Fields and Diamond Mines."

At a meeting of the Mission Board in Dublin, under the presidency of Dr. Brown, Moderator, Mr. James Salters, a licentiate of the Belfast Presbytery, was designated to mission work in India. Rev. J. M. Rodgers, M.A., Convener of the Jewish Mission, reported very favourably of the Damascus schools. He had recently visited Hamburg, and described the condition of the crowds of Jews who had been driven into that city through Russian persecution. The Rabbi Lichenstein continues to write in favour of the Christian religion and to preach in the synagogue that Jesus is the Christ. The following grants were made: Canada French Evangelization, \$750; Manitoba, \$500; Queensland, \$350; New Zealand, \$250 and \$150 to the Church of Bohemia. Pastor Soucek was the first Bohemian student who attended the Assembly's College, Belfast.

DR. HEDDERWICK, of Glasgow, in his "Reminiscences," just published by Messrs. Blackwood, tells a story of the late Dr. Norman Macleod and the Princess Louise, which will be new to many. Shortly before his marriage the Marquis of Lorne took the chair at a benevolent society's dinner in Glasgow. The toast of the Princess was proposed by Mr. Orr-Ewing and gracefully acknowledged by the Marquis, and then came Dr. Macleod's turn to speak. "Mr. Ewing," he said, "has spoken of the delicacy he felt in alluding to her Royal Highness in presence of our happy chairman. Now I feel no delicacy at all, for I know that a young man delights in nothing so much as to hear people talk about his sweetheart. I have had the honour and happiness of meeting with her Royal Highness, and I can only say that if I had been the Marquis of Lorne instead of the minister of the Barony Kirk I would have gone in for myself!"

THE Philadelphia *Presbyterian* says. The Presbytery of St. Paul, it is reported, has ended its debate on the Report of the General Assembly's Committee of Revision, by recommending the General Assembly to drop the whole matter and postpone revision indefinitely. We do not wonder at this. The long-continued agitation has wrought its natural result. It has begotten a weariness of spirit which asks earnestly for a close of the strife of words. The prospect of having the whole series of changes, some of which are amendments, and some not amendments, again submitted, and, having to meet them for final adoption or rejection, is, to say the least, not assuring. The Church is tiring of the whole business. Would not a declaratory statement, setting forth points on which the Church wished to be more fully understood, and guarding against perversions of her doctrines, prepared by men skilled in the preparation of comprehensive and accurate forms of belief, be far better than throwing a tentative, incomplete report into the lap of more than two hundred Presbyteries and expecting full and wisely-ordered answers?

It was an utterly mistaken notion, Rev. J. Guinness Rogers said in his Merchants' Lecture recently, that preaching was only a reiteration of messages addressed to those who needed salvation. Two functions had to be filled, that of evangelization and the development of Christian duty, so that Christ's thought and life should be reproduced in all the movements, words and actions of the common life of men. The growing idea that a preacher should be an expert in all leading social questions had no justification in the New Testament. It might sometimes be desirable to interpose, but such occasions were very rare, and in the long run lack of precise knowledge was likely to bring about disastrous results. A preacher's duty was to lay down grand principles such as would make wrong impossible. It ought to be impossible for a Christian man to be a sweater. The atmosphere of the Church and the teaching of the pulpit should be such that a man who wanted to wring gold out of his work-people should be disqualified for Church membership. There could be only blame for any preacher who for any cause shrank from coming into contact with the selfish passions of men. The great fault in the past had been that preachers had been content to dwell and move apart from the everyday life of men.

THE Convention of the World's and National Woman's Christian Temperance Union is to be held in Tremont Temple, Boston, November 13 to 18, 1891. This will be the first convention of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the eighteenth of the National Society. Both organizations are the sober second-thought of the great temperance crusade by women, dating back to 1874, and having as its chief centre Ohio and surrounding States. In the interval this movement has been organized and systematized, with methods of work under the heads of Preventive, Educational, Evangelistic, Social and Legal, subdivided into forty National Departments. Scientific temperance education has been introduced into all the States, into all the provinces of Canada, and in great centres throughout the world. A petition has been circulated in every civilized nation for the total suppression of the legalized traffic in alcoholics and opium. A publishing house, sending out over one hundred million pages annually, has been founded in Chicago, also a National Temperance hospital, and a Woman's Temperance temple, costing over a million of dollars, and intended by its rentals to serve as a source of income by which to carry on the temperance work of women. There are ten thousand local societies in the United States with a following of half a million members and adherents.

BROTHER GRAY, of the Chicago *Interior*—and may both flourish—has this characteristic statement to make to his readers: This issue completes twenty years of service by Mr. Gray to the readers of the *Interior*. It was hard sledding through the ashes in the fall of 1871. The work was undertaken unwillingly, and under a sort of providential compulsion—a kind of compulsion which most of our readers have experienced in their lives, and which, when submitted to, proves, in the end, the wisdom and goodness of God. It was dreadfully hard for a few years—fourteen to sixteen hours of hard work per day. But the chariot of the years was swift, however rough the road—swifter now on a smoother way. But we must not run by the force of momentum. The way for a man or an institution to make progress is to place itself under compulsion; in circumstances where the only way out is straight ahead, with every ounce of available push and pull. That was how it was in 1871-2—and we propose to place ourselves in similar circumstances for 1892. We do not purpose to let the chariot of time get away from us. "Push your work—don't let your work push you," was the wise advice of a sage of a past generation. But now success depends upon both. Push your work, and arrange your work so that it will push you. The steam engine now lets on its own steam. Here is to the memory of the loved departed and a greeting for those who are to come. All aboard for the twentieth century and for the kingdom of heaven!