

NEVER BEGIN.

Going down hill on a slippery track,
The going is easy; the task's getting
back.
But you'll not have a tumble, a slip nor a
stop,
Nor fall from below, if you stay at the top.

So from drinking and smoking and every
sin,

You are safe and secure if you never begin.
Then never begin! never begin!
You cannot be a drunkard unless you begin.

Some boast they can stand on the cataract's
brink;

Some do it, but some topple over and sink.
Then I think, to be safe, the most sensible
plan,
Is to keep from the brink just as far as you
can.

So from drinking and smoking and every
sin,

You are safe and secure if you never begin.
Then never begin! never begin!
You cannot be a drunkard unless you begin.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, AUGUST 23, 1884.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOARD.

THE annual meeting of the Sunday-school Board of the Methodist Church will be held in connection with the S. S. Parliament, at the St. Lawrence Central Back-ground, near Brockville. It will occupy the whole of Thursday, August 28. In the morning, from 9 to 12, the business meeting of the Board will take place. In the afternoon an Address on Normal Class Work will be given by the Rev. A. Andrews, to be followed by free discussion of the subject, led by the Rev. W. J. Maxwell. In the evening the public meeting of the Board will be held, to be addressed by Rev. Dr. Carman, Rev. W. H. Laird, Rev. W. H. Butt, Rev. W. H. Withrow, W. Kennedy, Esq., and George Aurey, Esq. Dr. Rice, it is hoped, will also be present.

The camp ground is a beautiful spot, and a healthful and charming summer resort. A Sunday-school Parliament has been held here for several years past, and we learn from the Secretary that there is abundance of hotel accommodation for all visitors.

The Parliament opens on Thursday evening, August 21st, at the St. Lawrence Central Camp Grounds, and will continue ten days. This will be the sixth annual session. The managers

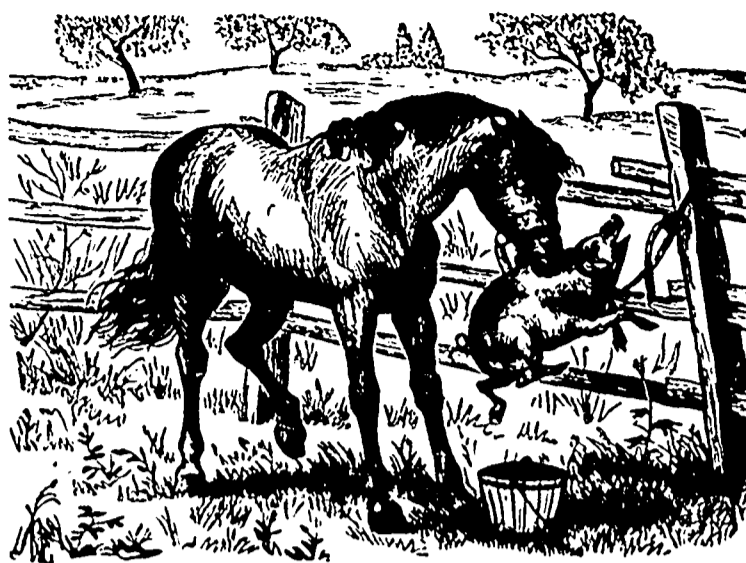
have engaged the following brethren as lecturers and preachers: Revs. Dr. Carman, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Withrow, Dr. Gardiner, Dr. Jacques, Bishop Fowler, of New York; Hon. John B. Finch, Nebraska; Professor Shaw, Montreal; Rev. A. B. Chambers, Rev. Jas. Curtis, President of Bay Quinto Conference; Hon. G. W. Ross, M.P.P., and others. The programme of last year was pronounced the best in the history of the Parliament. This year the programme is expected to be still better. This camp ground and the Sunday-school Parliament should now be laid hold of by the united Methodism of the eastern section of the Province, and their full possibilities developed. The annual camp-meeting will be held immediately following the Sunday-school Parliament, and on the same beautiful grounds. An efficient committee, appointed by the Montreal Conference, has the camp-meeting in hand. The Grand Trunk Railway will carry visitors to the camp ground from any of its stations for a fare and a third. Certificates can be procured from the Rev. S. Card, Brockville, which will entitle visitors to this reduced rate. The Richelieu Line of steamers, we believe, will carry visitors for one fare. A certificate, we suppose, is required.

ONE of the chief of the princes in Israel has fallen in the death of the late Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was eminent in counsel, eloquent in speech, and the acknowledged head both in the episcopal body and of the entire denomination. The Bishop's eloquence was simple, direct, and beautiful, flowing from the fulness of thought and the fulness of a glowing heart. In personal bearing the bishop was in the best sense a model Christian gentleman, courteous, dignified, easy of approach, pure, and full of kindness. He leaves behind him the record of an illustrious life, a career reflecting honour not only on the great denomination which chiefly received his labors, but upon the whole race as well.—*Bible Teacher.*

BETWEEN the two great conventions of Chicago came the International Convention at Louisville. The two at Chicago were composed of politicians; that at Louisville of workers in Christ's vineyard. The political conventions were noisy, tumultuous, and the inspiring principle was largely the hope of personal gain. In the Louisville convention selfish motives might exist, but could attain no decided prominence. Between the results of the conventions in far-reaching and permanent beneficial influence it would be difficult to draw any just comparison.—*Bible Teacher.*

THE minister who is required to use too much brain power in making one dollar do the work of two, should not be expected to bring to the fullest measure his power in the pulpit. So the Sunday-school that is insufficiently equipped with library, lesson-helps, and other valuable appliances for Sunday-school work, should scarcely be expected to achieve the best results it is capable of for its scholars. A generous outlay of means for the doing of the work will repay richly on the investment.—*Bible Teacher.*

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of \$5 for Children's Hospital, from D. Robertson, Southampton.



BILLY AND THE PIG.

BILLY AND THE PIG.

ONE day, when my father wished to go away to the mill, he sent my brother Robert down to the pasture to catch Billy. Robert brought the horse up to the house, tied him to the fence in the backyard, and gave him some oats in a pail.

In a pen back of the house we kept three pigs: two of them were white; and the other was spotted,—black and white. These pigs had got out of the pen by pushing off a board from one side of it.

Soon after Billy began to eat his dinner, the two white pigs came running through the yard. They saw Billy eating his oats; and, thinking it would be nice for them to have some as well as he, they ran up to his pail, and without as much as saying, "By your leave," began to help themselves.

Billy had no idea of sharing his dinner with such company as this: so he lopped back his ears, looked as cross as he possibly could, snapped at the pigs fiercely with his teeth, raised his hind-feet from the ground, as if to kick them, and at last succeeded in frightening them away.

Scarcely had they left the yard, however, before the spotted pig got his eye upon the pail of oats; and he at once ran for it with all his might.

Billy tried to scare him as he had the others; but Spotty was not so easily frightened. He took no notice of anything but the oats.

Finding that threats were of no use, Billy seized him by the back of the neck, raised him about two feet from the ground, shook him a little, and then let him drop.

Spotty was satisfied. He lost his appetite for oats, and ran squealing out of the yard.

ONE of the most encouraging signs of the times is the increasing earnestness and hopefulness of the workers in many of the departments of Christ's kingdom. Not only is the number of workers in the Sunday-school, in the temperance work, in the mission fields, rapidly augmenting, but everywhere the workers are pushing their work with a better heart and a larger expectation.—*Bible Teacher.*

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks donations of books and papers for poor schools from W. M. Bruce, of Listowel, and from T. E. Jago, Rockwood. We shall be glad to receive similar donations from others.

FINDING DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

WHEN Mr. Stanley stood before the savants of Europe, and many of the "small critics" of the day, under pretence of getting geographical information, put him most insolent questions, he folded his arms and refused to answer. At the very time when you would suppose all decent men would have applauded the heroism of the man, there were those to hiss. "The Lord sent the hornet." And now at this time, when that man sits down on the western coast of Africa, sick and worn out, with perhaps the grandest achievement of the age in the way of geographical discovery, there are small critics all over the world to buzz and buzz, and caricature and deride him, and after awhile he will get the London papers, and as he opens them out will fly the hornet. When I see there are so many people in the world who like to say disagreeable things, and write disagreeable things, I come almost in my weaker moments to believe what a man said to me in Philadelphia one Monday morning. I went to get the horse at the livery stable, and the ostler, a plain man, said to me, "Mr. Talmage, I saw that you preached to the young men yesterday." I said, "Yes." He said, "No use, no use; man's a failure."

THE BIBLE.

CHARLES JACOBS, Esq., of Chicago, illustrates the uselessness of the efforts made by unbelievers to destroy the authority of the Bible, by an incident of an Irishman building a wall in a marshy place. On being warned of the danger of its falling, "Oh!" he replied, "I've thought of that, and its five feet high and six feet wide, so if it upsets it will be a foot higher than it was before." So with the Bible; every new attack made upon it but established its strength as a divine revelation. Mr. Jacobs also said that the great need of the Church now is more men. The boys are following their fathers and elder brothers away from the Sabbath-school and prayer-services of the Church. There is a work that women cannot do. There is too much of a spirit of throwing Church duties upon them, and feeling that it is all right if the sisters are at their post.—*Western Christian Advocate.*