

The Barberini Palace is also in this neighbourhood: built by URBAN VIII, for his own use, about 1640. It stands in a garden that belonged to the historian Salust ever so many centuries ago. A part of this fine palace is open to the public and is one of the "sights" of Rome. The celebrated picture of *Beatrice Cenci* attracts crowds of visitors. Although few can appreciate it as a work of art, all are moved by it who are acquainted with the tragic history of the beautiful maiden. URBAN had a fancy for bees, and with bees he decorated almost every room and pillar in the house and outside of it. In one room a swarm is represented so numerous as to eclipse the sun!—typifying thereby "the splendour of his family." The Propaganda and other buildings founded or endowed by him, are also profusely decorated with "Barberini bees."

Close to the *Barberini*, is the Conventual Church of the *Cappuccini*, attached to one of the largest monastic institutions in Rome. It is famous for its singular cemetery beneath the church—in the "basement," as we would call it, which is divided into four chambers by walls built entirely of human skulls. The spaces between these partition walls are filled to the level of the floor with 'holy ground' from Jerusalem. There the monks have been buried from time immemorial, but, the space being limited, they are not allowed to remain very long underground. They are taken up in succession to make room for the next who dies. And their bones are built into the walls, or used for the embellishment of the chapels, in frieze, cornice, or centrepiece, as they may be best adapted—the smaller bones being worked into chandeliers, flowers, wreaths, or filigree to adorn the ceilings! A number of the most illustrious dead are reconstructed as skeletons and placed in niches, dressed in the brown cloak and hood they wore when they were alive. Imagination cannot picture a sight at once so ghastly and so grotesque as this.

Welfare of the Youth of the Church.

IT needs no laboured argument to prove that the future prosperity of our vast and splendid country depends upon the

moral and religious training of our youth. Statesmen may wrestle with the problem of our 'manifest destiny'; parties may rise and fall; governments may be overthrown; policies may be adopted and flung aside; but if our children are taught to live up to the ideal of Christian citizenship, all shall be well. Under God, the future of Canada is in the hands of parents, pastors and teachers, largely of Sunday-school teachers, for Spiritual forces are the strongest of all and levy tribute from all.

Last year, our imperfect statistics shewed 118,841 scholars, and 13,514 teachers and office-bearers in our Sabbath-schools, with an average attendance of 81,785 pupils. This is so far good and hopeful. The Sabbath-school committee, however, deemed it necessary to call the attention of the Assembly to the prevailing lack of interest on the part of parents and congregations in the work of Sunday-school instruction; and to "the neglect of thousands of children of the Church that are not brought either to the Sabbath-school or to the House of God, but are left to grow up without religious instruction." Omitting some of the local statistics, the committee's report was given in full in the RECORD for September last. In it we find these remarks:—

From the Report of the Committee on Statistics, we learn that 73,649 families profess connection with our church. Now, two children of church-going age is not a high average to allow for each family, yet this means over 157,000 children for which we are responsible. Our reports, however, say that there are only 118,000 enrolled as Sabbath-school scholars. Where are the other 39,000 Presbyterian children?

Again, of these 157,000, how many mature each year, and pass beyond direct control of parent or teacher? Probably one-sixth will be a low estimate, that is 26,000. But in the whole church this past year, only 12,500 were received into fellowship on profession of faith. What of the other 13,500? We are constrained to say that the church is not doing her duty to them. She is not alive to the seriousness of such a drain upon her vitality, as the loss of 13,500 every year.

Now, while the influence exercised by so noble an army of teachers—fifteen times as numerous as the ministers of our church—must be very great, we are constrained to admit that the church is not doing so much as she should towards the godly uprising of our youth. Making liberal allowances