

Old Sir John Maundeville, who wrote 500 years ago, says: "And there is the Golden Gate, which may not be opened, by which gate our Lord entered on Palm Sunday, upon an ass; and the gate opened to Him, when he would go into the Temple; and the marks of the ass's feet are still seen in three places on the steps, which are of very hard stone."

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## Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, JUNE, 1886.

### Home Study for Young People.

THE Rev. B. F. Austin, B.D., the accomplished Principal of Alma Ladies' College, St. Thomas, who has had much experience and success as an educationist, makes some very valuable suggestions on this important subject. He writes as follows:—

"During the past five years many letters from young people have reached me enquiring what books were most profitable to read, and asking direction in the matter of self-education. From this fact and the great success that has attended the Chautauqua movement, I have become convinced that a system of Home Culture for the masses of young people who cannot attend school or college is one of the great de-

mands of the age. The colleges can do much to promote systematic reading and study among the youth of our land by prescribing courses of study and promoting the organization of home classes, as well as by teaching certain subjects of the school courses on the correspondence system."

Mr. Austin is now about to lay down a year's course of study for young men and young women in home classes. The course will be eclectic, and will aim not only at instruction but also at a general *waking up* of the youthful mind to the possibilities and responsibilities of life.

Mr. Austin continues: "Such a course should contain, I think, a work on each of the following subjects:—Physiology and Hygiene, Mental and Moral Science, History of the Bible, Introduction to Bible Study, Christian Evidences, History of Canada, the elements of character that ensure success in life, and one or two other themes. I desire the full course to be such as to require about one hour per day during the year. After the course is published I shall endeavor to secure the organization of the home classes through the help of ministers. Examinations will be conducted quarterly, and certificates awarded once a year to successful candidates."

We are in hearty sympathy with this movement, and shall be happy to do all in our power to promote it. There are multitudes of young people who would gladly adopt such a course. Turned loose amid a wilderness of books they are like children lost amid a pathless forest, they don't know which way to turn. They will very gladly accept guidance from any who have themselves made some little progress through the forest. If left to wander at will they will make but little progress, and are in danger of mistaking poisonous berries for wholesome fruit.

The Chautauqua course of reading has been an invaluable boon to many thousands who have pursued with great advantage its well chosen studies. But that course covers four years and costs for books \$6 or \$8 a year. We need something simpler for young readers—something which will perhaps prepare them for the larger course. We believe that this proposed Reading Union will largely meet this want. Such a Union can be more readily organized in connection with our Sunday-schools than in any other way. Pastors of churches, superintendents of Sunday-schools, and others interested in the moral and intellectual training of the young can thus lay their hands upon a lever which shall help to raise the standard of intelligence and love of piety in