

weekly average of wages is \$500, and the total yearly expenditure for wages alone, \$26,000. Notwithstanding this large staff and expenditure, we are persuaded that we but express the opinion of the large and influential committee to which is committed the oversight of this establishment, that the utmost economy consistent with efficiency is observed by the Book Steward. The generous patronage of the Connexion is relied upon to recoup the heavy expense of the extension of business facilities.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF METHODIST MAGAZINE FOR 1881.

Our arrangements for the coming year are not yet quite complete, but we are able to make the following announcements: Among the features of special interest will be a series of articles by the Rev. Donald G. Sutherland, B.D., LL.B., minister of the Methodist Church of Canada at Clinton, Ontario, entitled "JOTTINGS IN EASTERN LANDS." It will give notes of his visit during the present year to the Levant, Egypt, and Palestine, with special sketches of the world-famous cities of Constantinople, Athens, Damascus, and Jerusalem. The series will be finely illustrated; and these pen and pencil pictures of Bible lands cannot fail to add greatly to the attractiveness of the Magazine.

In the January Number will be begun a story by the Editor, entitled "VALERIA, THE MARTYR OF THE CATACOMBS." Valeria was a Christian slave girl, the property of the daughter of the persecuting Emperor Diocletian, whose "melancholy adventures," says Gibbon, "might furnish a very singular subject for tragedy." The writer has made for many years the history and literature and memorials of the heroic period of the Church of the Catacombs a special study, and believes that he can throw much light on the early Christian life and character, and on the social and domestic relations of those stormy ages of persecution, in the form of a narrative, possessing much personal interest, of the trials and triumphs of those martyrs for the faith, "of

whom the world was not worthy." The story will be copiously illustrated by elegant engravings.

The Editor will also prepare a series of brief character studies, entitled "MEN WORTH KNOWING; OR, HEROES OF CHRISTIAN CHIVALRY." It will comprise the following: St. Jerome, St. Francis Assisi, William the Silent, Sir Francis Drake, Gustavus Adolphus, Admiral Coligny, Bernard Palissy, Jean Marteilhe, Fowell Buxton, Thomas Clarkson, William Wilberforce, and Charles Goodyear. These names have been selected, not at random, but as representing great religious and humanitarian movements of mankind. The writing of the sketches will involve much labour, and the reading of many books. But it is cheerfully undertaken in the interests of the MAGAZINE, and to give its readers, especially its younger readers, a more concise account than they can elsewhere obtain of some of the great men of God who, through the ages, have carried out His providential purposes toward our race.

It has been found impossible to complete in this volume Dr. Ryerson's valuable Essays on Canadian Methodism, and the admirable story of early Methodism, "Nathaniel Pidgeon." These will both be finished during the first half of next year.

Dr. Ryerson's important papers as they come nearer our own times grow in interest and value; and the power and pathos of Pidgeon's Diary culminate in its closing chapters. The London *Watchman* says: "It palpitates with genuine old Methodist experience and feeling. We have been unable to read it except with moistened eyes and deeply moved heart. It brings all the love and glow and gladness of primitive Methodism most vividly to our conscience."

We confess a disappointment in the character of some of the portraits presented during this year. Yet they have been the best that could be obtained in Canada. We cannot therefore definitely announce a regular series, but as we find