

Your Mission.

If you cannot, on the ocean,
Sail among the swiftest fleet—
Rocking on the highest billows,
Laughing at the storms you meet—
You can stand among the sailors,
Anchored yet within the bay—
You can lend a hand to help them,
As they launch their boats away.

If you have not gold and silver
Ever ready at command—
If you cannot to the needy
Reach an ever-open hand—
You can visit the afflicted,
O'er the erring you can weep,
You can be a true disciple,
Sitting at the Saviour's feet.

Do not, then, stand idly waiting
For some greater work to do,
While the fields are white to harvest,
And the Master calls for you.
Go and toil in any vineyard,
Do not fear to do or dare;
If you want a field of labor,
You can find it anywhere.

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Home and School.

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

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 23, 1889.

The Purpose of Prophecy.

Our Lord furnishes us the key of all prophecy when he says, "I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe." It is given us to strengthen faith when we see God's fulfilment of it. If it were given merely to inform us before the time, it would be given us with perfect plainness. And then, it is much to be feared, when we saw the time approaching, sit down and do nothing but wait for its coming. A tribe of Ojibway Indians, with whom I am acquainted, know within a few days when the agent from the seat of government is coming to bring them their half-yearly allowances, and they can do no work for a fortnight—just lie on the river-bank and watch for his canoe coming.

Take, for an example of prophecy, this: "He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death," and fancy any doctor of the law, how evangelical soever, trying before the occurrence itself to explain the allusion. How impossible to make anything of it! But the two thieves and Joseph of Arimathea make it all clear. And how consoling and strengthening to the first believers it must have been! How calculated to take away the horror they must have felt at Christ's dying in

such unworthy company, and how strengthening to their faith to see that it was all predicted, even to the fact of his being buried in a rich man's tomb; a circumstance unimportant in itself, but important as being a unique and conspicuous mark of God's foreknowledge and divine control.

When we approach prophecy, let us come, therefore, with the key our Lord has given us. When we use God's key we shall unlock God's treasures.

Value of the Bible.

IMMENSELY as the literature of this country has increased in this century, the Bible now occupies a larger proportionate space in that literature than ever it did. No book raises so many inquiries or touches so many interests. The Bible sends the student to libraries and archives. To the Bible we owe much of the intense and spreading interest in languages and in the originals of customs and of peoples. It directs the traveller to buried cities, to the tombs of kings, to the records of States once great and well-nigh forgotten. Wherever the battle of opinion is now the liveliest, wherever the race for discovery is most eager, wherever the earth at last reveals her buried history, it is to add to our knowledge of the sacred story, and to our understanding of the sacred volume.

Excursion to Europe.

DR. WITHROW'S "PROGRAMME" of his seven weeks' excursion to London and Paris and return, and an extended tour through Switzerland, Germany, the Rhine and Belgium, covering eleven weeks, is now ready, and will be sent, post-free, to any address. Ten days will be spent in London, and ten days in Paris, where the World's Exposition will be a great attraction. For particulars write to Dr. Withrow, at his residence, 240 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

Montreal Sunday-Schools.

THE annual gathering of the Methodist Sunday-schools of Montreal, was held on New Year's morning, in the lecture-hall of St. James', Dominion Square, and Mountain Street churches. There were large and enthusiastic and well-conducted gatherings in each, the interest being as great as on any former years. Brief addresses were made in each church by selected speakers, and the following friendly messages were read:—

"Montreal, Jan. 1, 1889.

"The Methodist Sunday-schools send very cordial New Year's greetings to the Presbyterian Sunday-school of Montreal. We heartily rejoice in your prosperity, determined, by the Divine blessing, to reach the same measure of success. To you and to us God has given the religious instruction of more than two-thirds of the Protestant youth of this city. We pray that our labours may result in lives marked by honesty and intelligence, and by Christian faith and devotion.

"On behalf of the Methodist Sunday-schools of Montreal.
WILLIAM I. SHAW."

"Montreal, Jan. 1, 1889.

"On behalf of the Presbyterian Sunday-school



FRANK POOCK. (From a photograph by the Author.)

Association of Montreal, I desire most heartily and cordially to reciprocate the kindly greetings of our friends of the Methodist Sunday-school Association. We rejoice to hear of the good work which under the blessing of God, you have accomplished, and pray that you may long continue to do good service for God and man in the city. We join hearts and hands with you in imparting sound Scriptural knowledge to the youth of our city, that thus a generation may be trained to be strong and of good courage, thoroughly familiar with the whole Word of God, and to become good citizens and valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ.

"J. MURRAY SMITH."

Mr. S. J. Carter, of the Sunday-school Union, submitted the report of missionary collections in the various Sunday-schools. The report speaks volumes in praise of the liberality and earnestness of the Methodist Sunday-schools of Montreal.

A LADY sends the following:—

"Dear Sir,—I enclose to you the sum of \$2.40. Will you kindly send twenty copies of THE SUNBEAM, for one year, to some minister or reliable person in the Parry Sound District, for distribution among the children, where, I hope, the blessing of God may accompany them, and make them a comfort to those who may read them.

"A LOVER OF CHILDREN.

"Name strictly private."

Her request is complied with. Who will follow!

Thank God! I See a Church!

A CREW of sailors who, as they said, did "not believe in missions to the cannibals," learned to change their minds. Cruising among one of the Pacific groups, their vessel struck a reef, and foundered.

There was nothing to be done but to take to the boats and row ashore, although, according to their information it was a choice between sharks and natives. The part of the coast where they landed happening to be uninhabited, they hid themselves in a hollow until it became necessary to procure something to eat, even at the risk of being eaten themselves. At length one of the boldest ventured to the top of a hill, where he could look over the populous valley beyond. All at once his fear-stricken companions saw him spring to his feet, and wring his hat shouting: "Come on, boys; it's all right. Thank God! I see a church!"