

mortification to see their noblest efforts baffled by a host of prejudices and preconceptions—they will have first to remove a thousand obstacles out of the road, which, but for their own well-meaning but unwise delay, would never have accumulated.

The Sabbath School is an institution for making children acquainted with the holy scriptures, and for bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. It is not designed to supersede the practice of domestic scriptural training. It is designed rather to assist, promote and perpetuate that practice where it obtains, and in some measure to answer its valuable purposes where it is neglected. It will be a sad day for the church of Christ when the good old practice of catechising and instructing the young under the paternal roof is laid aside. Oh how delightful it is to witness a pious family thus employed! Behold the good man of the house in the character of a spiritual instructor, with his young and tender charge around him! It is the Sabbath's hallowed eve, and an unusual stillness within and without, invites to exercises of a spiritual and heavenly cast. He has but lately returned from the sanctuary, where, with the wife of his bosom and the older branches of his family, he has been worshipping the God of his fathers and drawing in spiritual nourishment to his own soul. A frugal repast has refreshed the members of the family, and he would now attend to their spiritual wants. With the measure of grace which God has bestowed on him, he enters on the stated work of their religious instruction. His demeanour is grave and serious, for the task is an affair of eternity. Now he hears them repeat their several hymns; now he catechises them on the doctrines and duties of our holy Christianity; and now he listens to them reading down the sacred pages;—while by his side sits their pious mother, evidently delighted with the seriousness they evince, the accuracy with which they go through their various exercises, and the general success which has crowned her well-directed efforts during the week, while their father was absent in the counting room or the workshop, in the factory or the field. A family thus disciplined, becomes a little nursery for the church and for heaven. Oh, none can estimate the advantages that accrue to the church, and to society at large, from the practice of domestic scripture training! Splendid testimonies have often been borne to its worth, by the lives and deaths of great and good men, who have been benefactors of their race; but the day of judgment alone can reveal its wonderful excellence and its transcending power.

Now, wherever this excellent practice obtains, the warmest advocate of Sabbath Schools has no wish to interfere with it; he would rather encourage and promote it; he would rejoice to see it adopted by every family; and to those families who have adopted it, he would hold forth the Sabbath School institution as only a powerful auxiliary of which it were certainly a mark of ignorance or conceit not to avail themselves. But where this excellent practice does not obtain, he holds forth the institution as absolutely and imperiously called for, in which case it were a mark, not of ignorance or conceit, but of wickedness or infatuation, to speak disrespectfully of the institution, or to hinder little children from reaping its advantages.—*Christian Teacher.*

## News.

In the Report of the Montreal Magdalene Asylum, just published, it is stated that "all the inmates had either been led astray through indulgence in strong drinks, or had betaken themselves to drinking after falling into vice."

The vicinity of Montreal has been infested with a gang of robbers, who have been becoming more and more daring. They attacked the mail stage coming from Canada West, near Lacelle, and robbed one of the passengers; and on the afternoon of Saturday, the 3d inst, robbed Mr. Grafton, teacher, near St. Catharines. Fortunately, Sheriff Coffin and Judge Day came up immediately after, and, after a severe struggle, in which the courage and determination of the former were most conspicuous, by the assistance of some men who were at work at a new building near the spot, the two robbers were secured, and lodged in jail. Another robbery was committed by two men having the appearance of labourers near the same spot, on Thursday morning the 8th inst. The person robbed was Mr. Honore Lantier, son of the occupant of Priests' farm.

An accident occurred lately near Royaton, by which three individuals were killed, one of the stages containing passengers from

Boston to Montreal having been precipitated over an embankment more than 30 feet deep. The roads were somewhat icy, but there is little doubt the driver had been drinking gin shortly before.

A bill has been introduced into the House of Commons to remove the disabilities under which Roman Catholics labour, without at the same time in any way relieving Protestant Dissenters from the same disabilities.—*Witness.*

In Scotland there have been frequent public meetings to prevent, as much as possible, public conveyances running on the Sabbath. This question may arise soon in Canada.

By the latest American papers, it seems certain that a severe battle has been fought, near Monterey, between the American troops and the Mexicans under Santa Anna.

The cotton mills in Oldham afford employment to 20,673 individuals.

Mr. Lloyd Garrison was charged sixty dollars at the Boston Custom House, as duty on the silver tea-service presented to him by the ladies of Edinburgh; any remission was refused.

An export of whisky was made from New Orleans early in December for the Liverpool market.

Lord John Russell has granted £100 from the royal bounty, for the children of the late Thomas Hood.

The amount paid by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in metropolitan improvements during the year ending the 25th of August, was £717,604 5s.

The expense of potato seed for an acre of ground in Ireland now averages £20.

The special reporter of the *Cork Examiner* mentions the complete discontinuance of marriages in that county.

Mr. Horner, of Brandon-hall Farm, near Harwood, slaughtered, the other day, a pig, thirteen months old, which stood 3 feet 6½ inches high, and weighed 639 lbs.

The *Press* states that Lord Palmerston has secretly made offers for the purchase of Egypt after the death of Mehemet Ali. They will have his Lordship pocketing a pyramid by-and-by.

The *Bristol Journal* states that one clergyman alone (residing within eight miles of Salisbury) has raised the large amount of £5000 amongst his family and immediate connexions, for the relief of the distressed Irish.

It is said, after all, Louis Philippe has been cruelly taken in, in the affair of the Montpensier marriage, the dowry of the bride being only 30,000 000 Spanish reals, instead of as many francs,—in other words, £30,000 instead of £1,250,000.

On Saturday week the Duchess de Montpensier completed her 15th year, on which occasion she and her consort received most of the Spaniards in Paris.

About sixteen hundred tons of potatoes were last week imported into London, chiefly from France.

Last week a number of omnibuses commenced plying in London, at the rate of one halfpenny per mile.

The cholera is stated to have made dreadful ravages at Bassora. According to a German paper, the distress is so great in Hungary, that the poor are grinding the bark of trees to make into bread.

During the last year, the police of Copenhagen picked up 605 persons, one fourth of them women, who were lying dead drunk in the streets.

A variety of instances have lately been recorded in the public journals, in which severe surgical operations have been performed without the sufferer having the least sense of pain. The insensibility is produced by the inhalation of the vapour of the strongest sulphuric ether.

**A PIOUS DIVINE.**—Dr. Litchfield, Rector of All Saints, Thames Street, who died in 1447, left 3083 sermons, written by his own hand.—*Wilmot's Life of Jeremy Taylor.*

**IRISH RELIEF.**—There are now nearly half a million of labourers on the public works in Ireland, who derive their sole means of existence from this source.

**A PATTERN QUEEN.**—Queen Victoria is a pattern to her sex. She rises at seven o'clock: enters the nursery at eight, to indulge in a romp with her children, like many a fond mother; at nine the household assembles for prayers; and after ten o'clock prohibits breakfast being served to any one in the palace.

**LICENSE QUESTION IN PENNSYLVANIA.**—A vote on the question of license or no license, in Warren county, was taken on the 9th ultimo, and, so far as heard from, the townships, with one exception, (Puegetove), have voted for no license by large majorities.