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Rev. A. W. NICOLSON,
Editor and Publisher.

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NO. 47

WESLEYAN BOOK ROOM,
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the numerous books which have been
written on the life of our Lord, Farrar's,
for elegance of style and close discrimi-
nation of the gospel narrative, is de-
cidedly the best. The author is one of
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artist at the feet of his divine subject.
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Summerfield's Sermons, quarto, con-
taining 83 of the discourses by which
this marvelous youth obtained so wide
and just a notoriety, is sold at \$2. Most
of readers have in their minds eye a
portrait of this preacher, who, for a
brief space, enchained the multitudes
by his magic eloquence. A brief sketch
is also given of Summerfield's life and
method of preparing for the pulpit.

Pendover, a story of Cornwall, in the
time of Henry VIII., by A. Fellul, is a
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336 pages. As an historic tale this is
one of the most cleverly drawn and
altogether forcible books which have
recently appeared. For any reader it
would be delightful; but to young peo-
ple it would convey both instruction
and pleasure.

Dr. McClintock's Life and Letters, by
Dr. Crooks, 410 pages, price 1.75, is a
thoroughly well written biography. As
a Scholar, an Artist, a Pastor, an
Educationist, Dr. McClintock was very
ripe and always popular. His spirit
was of the beautiful christian type,
which shines in every letter written
and every sermon preached. Dr. Crooks
does full justice to this eminent man.

A Knight of the XIXth Century, by Rev.
E. P. Roe, price \$1.50, is, without excep-
tion, the most masterly delineation we
have ever read of a young man's tempta-
tions, conquests and reward. How
far the fallen may take courage, and
how amply the past may be redeemed;
what snares beset the youth in his up-
ward path-way, and how the grace of
God, patiently taught and recommended
by one holy example can bring him
through everything—is here told in
most graphic language. The story is
simply fascinating.

The Cruise of the Challenger, originally
published at \$3.50 is now brought out
—400 pages, illustrated, handsomely
bound—for \$2. The "Challenger"
went over a vast extent of ocean, dredg-
ing for animal life of new forms,
seeking new kinds of species by land
occasionally, always adding to already
existing knowledge of the laws of the
air and the sea. We can bear witness
to the fidelity of at least some of the
engravings, from past personal observa-
tion. This is a welcome book to scien-
tific students.

Samuel Smiles has long ago estab-
lished a fine reputation as an author.
We recently alluded to his remarkable
Scotch Naturalist; now we have his *Life
of George and Robert Stevenson*, quarto,
500 pages, price \$3.00. Given two
such men as the Stephenson's—father
and son—with their mechanical gifts

and their national enterprise, with a
biographer like Samuel Smiles, so keen
in his appreciation of the fine points in
individual character—and what more
need be said?
In a neat box, at one dollar each,
we have Smiles three bright, helpful
books for young men—*Self Help, Thrift,*
and *Character*—an admirable present
for a youth starting out in life. Would
that all young men might follow their
counsels.

LITERARY NOTICES.—We are in re-
ceipt of the following:—
*Missionary Notices of the Methodist
Church of Canada for December*, a very
interesting number.

*The Canada Methodist Magazine for
December*, with an attractive list of
subjects and announcing a fine pro-
gramme for 1878. It will not be cred-
itable to our large and wealthy Church
in the Dominion if such a Magazine
will not be handsomely placed upon a
safe and permanent financial basis. The
Editor is energetic and up with the
times, and ought to be well sustained.

*Journal of Proceedings of the four-
teenth Annual Session Grand Lodge of
Good Templars of Nova Scotia*.

From the Wesleyan Conference Of-
fice, London, we have quite a list of
new publications to lay before our read-
ers. They are all for sale in the Hal-
ifax Book Room.

*The Wesleyan Methodist Connexion
Record and Year Book, 1878*, is an his-
toric and annual record and manual of
British Methodism, containing informa-
tion on every phase of its character
and operations.

*Minutes of the English Conference held
in Bristol, July 1877*.

*Missionary Stories, Narratives, Scenes,
and Incidents, &c.*, by the Rev. Wm.
Moister, new edition. Among the very
considerable variety of incidents and
scenes—all well written—there is one
on "The Man-of-war Class Meeting"—
an incident of Bermuda in 1844, in
which Rev. W. H. Shenston, now of
Newfoundland, is the most prominent
person. These stories cover a wide
field.

The Breakfast Half Hour, addresses
on religious and moral topics by Henry
R. Burton, 3rd edition, 9th thousand.
This is a series of short, crisp lec-
tures, delivered before a large company
of workmen during the half hour spared
after breakfast. The book has been
even more popular than the lectures.

David Livingstone, by Rev. Jabez
Marrat, is a pretty Sabbath School
Book, in which the great traveller's
life is adapted to scholars.

Martin Luther, by Rev. J. S. Banks,
is of a similar description, very neat
and well illustrated.

*The Wesleyan Methodist Calendar and
Daily Remembrancer for 1878*. A neat
pocket book, containing a vast fund of
information for reference, and inter-
leaved with blank paper for daily notes.
It has also Diary, Cash account, and
Memoranda leaves, of great advantage
for daily use.

In monthly numbers we have the
*Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, the Sun-
day School Magazine, the Christian Mis-
cellany, Our Boys and Girls*, besides num-
bers of much excellence. The enter-
prize of the English Book Room is to be
admired.

JUDGE MARSHALL ON DR.
DAWSON.

Referring to the whole work of creation
and providence, the Dr. says:—"Moses
takes strong ground on these points. He
first insists on the creations of all things
by the fiat of the Supreme. Next he spec-
ifies the elaboration and arrangement of all
the powers of inanimate nature; and the
introduction of organic existence. Lastly,
he insists on the creation of a primal hu-
man pair, and the descent from them of
all the human race. * * * explains
the golden age of Eden, the fall, the cher-
ubic emblems, the deluge, and other facts

of human history interwoven by the hea-
then with their idolatries. He thus grasps
the whole material of ancient idolatry, re-
duces it within the compass of monotheism
and shows its relation to the one true pri-
mitive religion."

On this the Judge remarks:
Here, again, the Dr. has committed a
great inconsistency and blunder regarding
his story, for, in another place, as has been
seen, he describes the work of creation in
Genesis as having been "presented to the
mind of a Seer as if in a series of pictures
which he represents to us in words. * * *
perhaps some aboriginal patriarch, long
before the time of Moses, perhaps the first
man himself, wrapt in ecstatic vision. * * *
In the first chapter of Genesis, he
(the Seer) rehearses this divine vision to
us in a series of regularly arranged parts."
But now the Dr. makes Moses alone the
composer and recorder of the work and
speaks of his insisting on the whole of it.
How will the Dr. reconcile the two direct-
ly contradictory accounts of the Seer before
Moses, giving the account in Gen. 1, and
Moses giving it in the same chapter? It
cannot be done. But the plain and consist-
ent truth is, that God, by his inspiration,
conveyed the whole narrative to Moses;
and consequently he was merely the re-
corder of it; in accordance with the Scrip-
tures which say:—"My men of God
spoke as they were moved by the Holy
Ghost," and "all Scripture is given by in-
spiration of God."

The statement of the Dr. about "Moses"
grasping the material of ancient idolatry
and reducing it within monotheism, &c.,
is mere invention.

To the Doctor's opinion that—
"It is not on any scientific ground im-
probable that the oldest animal remains
known to geology belong to the middle
period of the earth's history, and were
preceded by an enormous lapse of ages,
in which the earth was being prepared for
animal existence, but of which no records
remain, except those contained in the in-
spired history."

The Judge replies—
What is this Dr.—only "not improb-
able"!!! Why, you have been strenuously
contending all along that there were many
millions of ages before any animal exis-
tence on the earth. It would almost seem
as if the Dr. wanted to make a large and
exciting book, and at the same time so
commit himself as not to give it any definite
or decided character, for he has made a
most abounding use of the words "per-
haps," "probable," "not improbable,"
and others of like uncertainty. From this
it would seem that he is not altogether
settled as to the truth of his story, but, in
reality, is only writing by way of specula-
tion, as several others before him have
done on the same subjects. He says that
"enormous lapse of ages no records
remain except those of the inspired his-
tory." No records on chaldean clay tab-
lets, no annals of American Indians!!
and where are "the documents of the old
Seer," which Abraham carried as "heir
looms" from Mesopotamia into Haran and
Canaan? If none or all of these will sat-
isfy you, Dr. as a proof on the subject, why
not take that "inspired history" alone as
sufficient proof? That tells you as plainly
as possible that the Lord God created the
heavens and the earth, and men and beasts,
and all creatures and things therein, with-
in six days, each having an evening and
morning like all the succeeding days of
human history to the present time.

METHODIST TABLE-TALK.
From the London Methodist.

It has been decided to call the pro-
posed German Wesleyan Chapel at
East London the "Peter Bohler Memo-
rial Chapel." It is intended in this
way to perpetuate the memory of the
pious German who was so useful in the
hands of God in the conversion of John
Wesley. A meeting about the scheme
will be held on the 14th inst., at the
Mission House, when Dr. Pope, the
President, will preside.

There was an interesting and spright-
ly conversation, I understand, in the
Book Committee on Monday, as to the
subject of "Imaginative Writings in
Christian Literature." It appears
some excellent ministers do not ap-
prove of the mild fictions issued by
the Book Room in Books and period-
icals of late. I am told that one strong
opponent is a historian, but that some
naughty person suggested that it was
inconsistent for him to object against
"imaginative writings" after himself
having written certain historical and
biographical sketches that other excel-
lent persons do not accept as fact.
One objector, too, is said to be a pic-
torial preacher, who had been a
painter would have put on canvas prob-
ably pictures as weird as some of
Dore's weirdest—but then, really, what
has that to do with the case? The ob-
jection is against "imaginative writ-
ing in Christian literature," not against
"imaginative preaching in Christian
pulpits!"

The Burials Bill is not a bugbear to
some clergymen. They are wise
enough to see that it will often save
them trouble, and long walks to the
graveyards; and they even express
the hope that circuit ministers
will not be disappointed if, after it
has passed, they find it rather un-
pleasant to walk out to distant vil-
lages to bury the faithful poor of their
flock. One who styles himself "Vicar
in the Holy Orders of the Church of
Christ and of England, write:
"Friend art thou fain to lead a quiet life?
Put up with much before thou plunge in strife,
Perhaps the reply of many would be
that they had "put up with much,"
for long.

The Michigan Methodist Episcopal
Conference has "deposed" the Rev.
M. V. Rork from its ministry for
teaching that there is a state of proba-
tion after death. The good people
who wrote so many letters in one of
the papers against the Wesleyan Con-
ference this year for letting men go
who had changed their doctrinal views
will perhaps like to begin again on Mr.
Rork's case. The fact ought to be
clear that when a Methodist Minister
is ordained, he agrees to teach Metho-
dist doctrine, and on that condition
he is sanctioned as a teacher in Metho-
dism. Post-mortem probation is not an
accepted Wesleyan doctrine; hence,
while the Conference does not deny a
preacher's right to teach whatsoever
doctrine he pleases, it simply termi-
nates its conditional sanction of him
as a Wesleyan teacher when he preach-
es doctrines different from those of our
standards.

ON THE DUTY OF PROFESSING
CHRISTIANS, WITH REGARD TO
THE EMPLOYMENT OF THEIR
MENTAL TALENTS.
Why has God, in this respect, distin-
guished us from the beasts that perish?
Did we judge from the conduct of man-
kind at large, we might suppose that it
was only for the purpose of enabling
them to multiply those inventions, to
form those plans, to enjoy those pleasures,
and to engage in those pursuits which
pertain exclusively to the present state of
existence. That mind was meant by its
Creator to be the slave of matter, and to
devote whatever it possesses of energy to
the support, the decoration, and the pre-
servation of its perishable tenement.
What shall we eat? what shall we drink?
and wherewithal shall we be clothed?
are the questions that agitate, excite,
engross by far the greatest portion of the
mental talent that exists. Even amongst
those whom Providence has raised above
the necessity of laborious exertion in
order to procure the necessaries or con-
veniences of life, how small the number
who seem to think of their mental endow-
ments otherwise than as the ministers of
their pleasures. They are shrewd ob-
servers, sagacious reasoners, curious in-
quirers, smart business people, can think
accurately, express themselves readily,
and do credit to the station they occupy,
and the sphere in which they move. Their
memories are retentive, their judgments
acute, their perceptions clear and com-
prehensve; they have acquired much
learning and many accomplishments; but
what have they done for God? What are
they doing for His Church? Is there any
practical recognition of the principle that
it is He who has made them to differ from
others, and that in doing so He has had
a love to talent; and does it signify nothing
how this talent is employed, or whether it
be employed at all? It is not the posses-
sion of talent, but the good use made of it
that renders its possession truly honorable.
Such conduct ill-becomes those (especially
Methodists) who profess to regard them-
selves as "not their own, but as bought
with a price," and as bound by the most
solemn obligations "to glorify God in
their bodies and their spirits, which are
His." And might not those amongst us
as a people, who are favored with superior
mental qualifications, do much more than
they have done in the service of Christ?
Can it, in this respect, be truly said of us

that we have done what we could? Has
their judgment been occupied, as it might
have been, in the contrivance, selection,
and arrangement of means for promoting
the spiritual welfare of others? Have
their superior powers of thought and
utterance been employed as they might
have been in commending the Gospel to
others? If so, why so much backward-
ness in the social means of grace; why so
little speaking for Jesus? Have they
entered with a due degree of energy and
zeal into those plans of christian benevo-
lence for the good of others, as they
might have done? These inquiries might
be multiplied, but enough for the present,
suffice it to say that much is expected
from the pulpit of to-day; but it should
be remembered that where much is given,
whether in pulpit or pew, much is re-
quired of both. Let but the Church
bring the full "tithes" of their hearts to
the sacred altar; a full consecration of
our redeemed powers of mind and heart
be the experience of all who profess to
love Jesus, then we may expect a full tide
of prosperity amongst us, notwithstanding
the reproaches we hear that Methodism is
shorn of considerable of its strength
because of conformity to the world.
S. A.

Ignorance is no excuse for the trans-
gressor, providing he have opportunities
and capacity to learn. That is not
only true in theology but in law. A
judge thus summed up the other day
the evidence against an aged man,
previously respectable enough, who had
given false information to the public
respecting the financial condition of an
Insurance Society of which he was
President.

That excuse (of ignorance) may be one
to be accepted by a higher than earthly
tribunal, but in the administration of
justice, in the preservation of the require-
ments of the law, and in the protection
which courts owe to all classes of the peo-
ple, it is necessary that such ignorance
should not be accepted. If it was your plain
duty to know it was a violation of your
duty to be ignorant; and if you have suf-
fered yourself to be ignorantly duped into
this gross deception the consequences
must fall upon you. The protection due
the public must be respected, and officers
holding such important trusts must be
held to their duty, or all confidence in
human integrity must be abandoned. Men
must look out for themselves as though
there were no law, no justice, no duty, if
public officers holding such a position of
trust as yours are to be permitted to make
oaths to the truth of such statements as
this report contained, and then fall back
upon the pitiful plea of ignorance of the
facts, which duty and the law required
them to know.

The Canadian correspondent of the
Nashville "Advocate" gives an item
or two of information which we have
not seen elsewhere:—

The Indian Missions of our church have
always been regarded as one of its grand-
est monuments. From a very early period
the aborigines were cared for by the
Methodist Church, and some noble speci-
mens of sanctified humanity have been
found among those children of the forest.
Only a short time before the death
of our noble missionary, the Rev. George
Macdougall, he was employed by the Gov-
ernment of the country to quell a distur-
bance which it was feared might lead to
serious results among the native tribes of
the North-west. The Indians believed
"the black-coat," and the Government,
true to its promises, made an honorable
treaty with the tribes in question. Since
the death of Mr. Macdougall his son John
has been employed as a mouth-piece to
another tribe, with whom the government
has made such a treaty as seems to give
satisfaction to all parties. I am glad to
inform your readers that our Dominion
Government have placed upon permanent
record their estimate of the services of the
Rev. George Macdougall, and expressing
deep regret at his untimely death.

RENEWALS FOR 1878.

TO OUR MINISTERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.
Please report early and remit as soon as
convenient for Subscribers for next year.
Most of our Subscribers end with this month.
We do not wish to lose one, but desire to
add as many as possible. While canvass-
ing the old, do not forget new Subscribers.
It is an immense advantage to you and us
to make clean work of Subscriptions in
December. Then we have rest on that score
for a whole year. If any have failed to get
their Lists please let us know.