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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

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Notes of the Week.

THE following members of the English Presbyterian Synod have been appointed to confer with six members of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist General Assembly on the best means of bringing the two Churches into closer union, viz.: Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson, Rev. Dr. Lundie, Rev. Dr. Thoburn McGaw, Sir G. B. Bruce, Mr. James Goodman, and Mr. R. Amos.

THE British Sunday School Union embodies some interesting figures in their annual report: There are in the United Kingdom 45,000 schools in which upwards of 700,000 teachers are engaged in instructing 7,000,000 scholars. In the United States there are upwards of 100,000 Sunday schools, more than 1,000,000 teachers, and 8,500,000 scholars. In the whole world the schools are said to number 183,390, the teachers 1,999,569, and the scholars 17,716,212.

THE seventy-seventh anniversary festival of the Caledonian Asylum was held recently at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the chairmanship of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn. He takes the place of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, who had agreed to preside. There are at present 165 orphan boys and girls in residence in the asylum, and on Sunday they worship alternately at the Caledonian Road Church and at Regent Square.

THE Rev. John McNeill has been conducting a most successful series of meetings in Dundee. The audiences have been crowded, and the public interest has been very great. Mr. McNeill said he was tired of preaching to the church-going mob, who flock to church and flock back again, and did nothing. Speaking from the words, "And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come," he insisted that evangelistic preaching was the greatest of all preaching.

THAT human nature is pretty much the same the world over, the following, supplied by a Scottish contemporary, is a good illustration: At a public meeting in Edinburgh in connection with the Zenana mission, Miss Nairn presiding, it was stated by Miss Hogg, of Old Calabar, that one of the difficulties in her mission was the love of dress on the part of the converts, and their insubordination to their Christian husbands. The women wanted silks, satins and velvets, and instead of doing as they were bid, as they formerly had to do in the harems, they now had their say in everything.

THE Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada are asking the co-operation of the Church and all interested in the cause of prison reform in their efforts to rescue destitute and neglected children from a criminal career. The commission appointed by the Ontario Government to enquire into and report upon the cause and prevention of crime in the province reported over a year ago, and made some very important recommendations, especially with regard to juvenile crime, which they found to be sadly on the increase in the province. These recommendations were unanimously endorsed by a large and influential conference, held in Toronto in November last, and composed of Prison Reform experts and representatives from all the Churches and several

other bodies. The association are now making an appeal to the Churches to join with them in urging the Ontario Government to take up and deal with this important question without further delay; and also to join with them in petitioning the Dominion Government to co-operate with the Local Government in inaugurating these desirable reforms.

AT the United Presbyterian Synod Dr. Henderson, ex-Moderator, gave in the report of the Committee on the Revision and Enlargement of the Hymnal. During the year conferences had taken place with the Praise Committee of the Free Church with a view to promoting uniformity in the hymnals used in the Free and U.P. Churches. It was unanimously agreed to represent to the Synod that a joint hymnal is both desirable and practicable and to request that the Synod give the committee power to co-operate with the Free Church Committee in compiling a hymnal for use in both Churches. On the motion of Dr. Kennedy, who expressed the hope that they should soon have a common hymnal for all Presbyterians, the report was approved and the request of the committee was granted.

AT the meeting of Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Edinburgh, the question of combining theological instruction with the Free Church has been shelved for the present, the Synod having agreed to fill the vacancies in the teaching staff of the United Presbyterian College. Contrary to expectation, Dr. Andrew Thomson, though receiving a large vote for the Principalship, was not elected. Three names were proposed, Drs. Thomson, Hutton and Orr. The vote stood, Dr. Hutton 293; Dr. Thomson, 194; and Dr. Orr, 172. It is not, however, a permanent appointment, but only for five years, and the salary attached is the modest sum of \$500, it being understood that Principal Hutton will retain the pastorate of his congregation in Paisley. Dr. Wardrope, of West Calder, by a large majority was elected to fill the Chair of Systematic Theology, and Mr. Hislop, a young man, that is, for a professor, who has been pastor in Helensburgh since 1876, was chosen to fill the Chair of Practical Training. There is every reason to expect that with the infusion of new life and vim, the United Presbyterian College, adapting itself more fully to the special requirements of the time, will surpass in efficiency the old U.P. Hall in its palmiest days.

THE London *Presbyterian* says: The Synod in England in connection with the Church of Scotland met last week in London; and an important suggestion was made by the Rev. Mr. Niven, of Glasgow, who seconded the vote of thanks to our representatives (Rev. Dr. McEwan and Mr. G. W. C. Shield) which had been moved by Mr. J. A. Campbell, M.P., of Stracathro. This was to the effect that our Synod might see its way to appoint deputies to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. We trust this suggestion will be taken into serious consideration on our part. We cannot, indeed, be too careful not to give any occasion of offence to those sister Churches in Scotland with whom we are already federated. The Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church stand in very close and kindly relationship to ourselves. We believe, however, that, in spite of the burning question of disestablishment, the Church of Scotland is feeling its way to something of a friendly sympathy with the non-established Churches. There are signs that the coming battle will not be fought with that extreme bitterness which would leave behind it a legacy of hatred and alienation. The great question of Presbyterian reunion is slowly telling on the spirits of the combatants on both sides. Our Church has never deemed itself called on, as a Church, to take sides in that conflict, although many of our men have not made any secret of their views, or held themselves back from supporting the movements with which they sympathized. To us the Church of Scotland is a great Presbyterian Church, with the question of its alliance with the State we are not

concerned. Should our Synod see its way to send deputies to the General Assembly, that would not commit us to any particular view, or preclude us from any action we might deem it right to take. It would simply emphasize our common Presbyterianism, and nothing more.

OF Principal Hutton, who has been appointed successor to the late Principal Cairns, the *Christian Leader* says: The United Presbyterian Church has done its best to balance the great position and dominant authority of Principal Rainy by appointing the next most distinguished platform advocate of Disestablishment to the principalship of their college, which is now held on a new limited tenure of five years' duration. Dr. Hutton has emphatically deserved well of his Church. He has fought her battles manfully, ever foremost in the fray, undismayed when the strokes of the enemy were severest. He is indeed one of the men who have been made by the bitter enmity of the *Scotsman*. He is now sixty seven years of age, but truly young for his years. He was ordained in 1851 to the charge of the congregation in Paisley, in the pastorate of which he still remains. He is well known also as a prominent temperance advocate, and is president of the United Presbyterian Total Abstinence Union. The Principal is an excellent preacher of the old school, and speaks still better upon the platform. Strong logical connection and apt and ready illustration are marked features in his public speech. There is never any mistake as to what Principal Hutton means. He does not practise sitting on the fence, or worship "the cult of the jumping cat." We believe that he will be widely useful in his new position, and that the best interests of the college and its students may be committed to him.

THE fifty-second annual meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society was held in Knox Church last week. Sir Daniel Wilson, President of Toronto University, occupied the chair. The annual report stated that since the organization of the Society, in 1840, the blessing of God had rested upon it, and steady progress had marked its course. The issue of the Scriptures, and the revenue, have largely increased from year to year, and the work of the Society has been greatly extended, embracing the whole territory from Kingston to the Pacific coast, except a small portion occupied by the Western Ontario Society in the neighbourhood of London. Sixteen new branches have been formed and others resuscitated during the past year. In the city of Toronto branch Bible Societies have been organized in seven different districts, three of which have already shown the result of their labours by sending in their collections, while the others are expected to be in active operation during the coming year. It is hoped that this method will largely increase the subscriptions from the citizens and eventually relieve the Society of the necessity of employing a city collector. The pastors are earnestly requested to present this matter to their respective congregations. The total issue of Scripture for the year is 39,972 copies, 1,557 over last year. In addition to this the Society has assisted the work of Bible colportage in Quebec to the amount of \$1,814.03, and in Manitoba and the North-West to the extent of \$918. Although the total revenue of the Society is about \$1,300 less than last year, the ordinary revenue is nearly \$1,200 larger than in any former year, the apparent decrease being caused by the large sum of \$5,000 received last year as the first instalment of the late Mr. William Gooderham's munificent bequest, as against \$2,500, the second payment of the same bequest which has been received this year. Remittances to the parent Society during the year have been over \$17,000. The total income for the year ending March 31, 1892, was \$38,729. The report was adopted. Addresses were delivered by Rev. William Fawcett, D. D., of Chicago, Rev. E. J. Stobo, Secretary Quebec Bible Society; Rev. B. D. Thomas, D. D., and others, and resolutions expressive of gratitude to God for what the Society had accomplished in the past, and commending it to the continued support of the Christian community, were adopted.