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## IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

## IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to recent demands for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of reporting all necessary statistics of our Sabbath Schools, as well as preparing the returns asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Rolls 60 cents per doz. Price of School Registers 30 cents each. Address—

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## Notes of the Week.

A LARGE and important building has been erected at Hampstead as a Christian College for ladies, where they can be prepared for the different degrees of the London University. The expense is partly met by a legacy of nearly \$50,000. Dr. George Macdonald, the eminent novelist, was present at a meeting of the friends of the institution the other day.

THE will of the late Henry Matier, J.P., of Fortwilliam Park, has been proved, and contains the following, amongst other, bequests: To the Presbyterian Orphan Society, \$5,000; to the Presbyterian Indian and China Mission, \$5,000; to the Presbyterian Irish Mission, \$2,500; to the Jewish Mission, \$2,500; to the Sustentation Fund in connection with Fortwilliam Park Church, \$2,500; to the Presbyterian Colportage Society, \$2,500.

THERE having arisen again a strife between the Greeks and the Latins as to the use of the two staircases in the Basilica at Bethlehem, the Sublime Porte at Constantinople has issued an order prohibiting the Orthodox Greeks from using the northern staircase, which is distinctively reserved for the Latins. It is expected that Russia will enter a protest. The French Government takes the part of the Latins. A quarrel over the Holy Places was the precursor of the Crimean War.

AN English grand jury made a presentment to Mr. Justice Hawkins, which speaks bad for the public morality. We are entirely of his lordship's opinion, that if the lash is a fitting punishment at all in this country—upon which we have grave doubts—it ought to be made available for the benefit of the class, referred to by the grand jury, who find their victims among children of tender age. The Judge said, "I have tried so many of them that at the end of the assizes it makes me sick."

AN idea may be formed of the rapid growth of the great Protestant movement in Russia when it is mentioned, on the best authority, that 450 persons were admitted to Church membership during 1890 in the two small provinces of Cherson and the Taurida. There are no accurate statistics from the other provinces in which the movement has taken root, but we are credibly informed that the total number of new members in 1890 exceeded 1,400. In the first five months of this year, notwithstanding the terrible persecution raging against these brethren, the number of members who have joined exceeds 700. Over 2,000 in seventeen months! What, then, must be the number of those who are probationers, who have left the Orthodox Church and not yet thrown in their lot with the Protestants; and, more striking still, what must be the number of the almost persuaded?

THE Toronto correspondent of the *British Weekly* says the readers of that journal will appreciate the loss the Toronto people are likely to sustain in the contemplated removal of the Rev. S. H. Kellogg, D.D., from his present influential position to his former linguistic work in India, for which he is so pre-eminently fitted. It is to be hoped that some of the good people will be led to go with him as volunteer missionaries, for Christian workers there are treading on one another's heels! What the last sentence may mean is not clear, but be that as it may it is a matter of sincere congratulation,

that Toronto is not likely to lose the valuable and much appreciated labours of Dr. Kellogg. What India has lost by not going the proper way about obtaining the services of one possessed in so eminent a degree of the qualifications of Dr. Kellogg for the work contemplated there, the gain to Toronto by his retention is highly pleasing to his congregation and to the Christian community.

THE meetings at Niagara-on-the-Lake have been largely attended and much enjoyed. Rev. Dr. L. W. Munhall, of Philadelphia, gave a characteristic and stirring address, dealing largely with the present conditions of religious life and thought. Rev. W. J. Erdman, of Ashville, North Carolina, gave an address on the subject of "One Spirit One Body," followed by Dr. West in one of his characteristic illustrations of the erroneous trend of some recent criticisms on the questions of inspiration and authenticity of the Scriptures, with special reference to the Book of Isaiah. It deserved and received the closest attention, and as point after point was unfolded the audience readily testified their appreciation of the learned Doctor's efforts. In the afternoon Dr. Pierson, of Philadelphia, gave an exposition of the Book of Jude, illustrated, as all his addresses and those of Dr. West are, with appropriate blackboard diagrams. Dr. Parsons and others took part in the proceedings of the conference. Steps have been taken for the publication of a monthly paper advocating the views it is the design of the conference to disseminate.

THE Congregational Council is now in session in London. At the first meeting the delegates assembled in Memorial Hall, Rev. Robert Williams Dale, D. D., LL. D., presiding. Dr. Dale in his address of welcome said that numbers of the delegates had never seen each other's faces before, but they were not strangers to each other. As they came together in the name of the Cross they were conscious of their kinship. They had the same faith the same hope, common sorrows and common joys. Subsequently Rev. Dr. Bevan, of Melbourne, Australia, was elected president. Dr. Dale in a sympathetic speech referred to the illness of Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon. Dr. Dale then moved that the secretary be instructed to draw up, on behalf of the Council, a resolution to the above effect and to take it to Mr. Spurgeon's family. The resolution was unanimously carried. Dr. Brown, chairman of the Congregational Union, presided at the evening reception given to the American and colonial delegates. He spoke of the origin of the Council, traced a conversation between Dr. Hannay, of the English Union, and Dr. Dexter, of America, and regretted that both had died before their ideas were realized.

A NATION may be born in a day but it cannot grow to manhood in a day. In that sentence may be summed up the review of ten years' mission progress in Madagascar just printed on the press of the London Missionary Society at Antananarivo. The Society's Church members on the island have fallen in the decade from 68,227 to 59,615, while the Churches themselves have grown from 1,024 to 1,223; the native pastors and preachers from 4,426 to 5,700, and the general adherents of the mission from 225,460 to 248,108. This, says the spokesman of missionaries, does not stagger us who know the true state of things. We rather see in it true progress in knowledge, public opinion, and a sense of what a profession of Christianity really means. Idol-worship, infanticide, the poison ordeal, polygamy, divination, heathenism in its glaring outward forms, is now suppressed by law, has gone, or is slowly dying, hides in holes and corners where it still exists. Christianity is slowly but surely changing timeworn customs, uprooting heathenism in practice and idea, sapping the foundations of ignorance and vice, and moulding the life of the nation in its own inimitable fashion.

AN opinion is entertained by some that it is quixotic attempt to reclaim the criminal class. To those who have faith in the restorative power of the Gospel and strong human sympathies the task does not seem insuperable. At a recent meeting at the

London Mansion House a most encouraging statement was read, which shows that owing to kindly and persevering effort there is a falling-off in serious crime in the United Kingdom. In the course of the year no less than 7,715 men and boys were assisted to return to ways of honesty; and it was reasonably claimed that some part of the remarkable decrease in the number of criminals was due to the labours of the society, which has been at work since 1877 under the superintendence of Mr. Hatton. In a very brief period the population of local, or short-sentence, prisons has actually decreased about thirty-two per cent. In 1878 the population of such prisons was 20,873; twelve years later it stood at 13,877. Hence, as it was stated, the statistics of convictions prove that the number of persons who receive their first conviction is diminishing every year. The case of the convict prisons for long sentences appears, from the prison commissioners' report, to be equally satisfactory. During the last five years the numbers sentenced were little more than half of what they were in the five years ending with 1879. Twelve years ago we had one convict to every 15,000 of the people; in 1890 the proportion was one in 29,700. Four stations are established outside of the four metropolitan prisons; and about a third of those who accept the invitation to breakfast sign the Temperance pledge. In addition to these a large number of convicts from various parts of the country apply at the Industrial Home for help, which is not denied them if they are sincere. Most excellent service is also done through the three homes for lads, who are taken charge of and saved from a first conviction according to the provisions of the First Offenders' Act. A fourth home is about to be opened, and no less than 1,200 lads have been dealt with since the opening of the first home in 1887.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at its late meeting had again under its consideration the extent to which gambling in some of its many forms is at present carried on and the evil which is done by it. It appointed a committee to deal with the whole subject, and this committee have passed the following resolutions: 1. That they view with alarm the great prevalence of a spirit of gambling and betting, which is doing much injury to society, and involving many of those who come under its influence in degradation and ruin. 2. That they rejoice in the fact that the Attorney-General for Ireland has taken steps to suppress lotteries and raffles in connection with bazaars held to raise money for religious and charitable purposes, and they hope that the law will be strictly enforced, and that those who have control of such bazaars will refuse to permit its violation on any pretext. 3. That while they are thankful that many influential newspapers have shown themselves alive to the evil which is caused by the practice of gambling, and have endeavoured to arouse public opinion against it, they believe that the public press might contribute still further to the removal of the evil by withholding the facilities now so often given to gambling by the publication of the odds on races and other future events, and they desire to invite the attention of newspaper proprietors to the importance of effecting a reform in this direction. 4. That they are of opinion that the local authorities should take such measures as are necessary to put a stop to the habitual use of the public streets and other public places as places of resort for the purpose of betting, and, in case the law is not already strong enough, should ask for further legislation on the subject. 5. That they view with great regret the encouragement which is known to be given to gambling by the example of persons in high places, and they would impress upon all who hold a position of influence that they should not only carefully abstain from giving any countenance to gambling by their own example, but should exert the influence they possess to check indulgence in it by others, even on the smallest scale. 6. That all ministers of congregations in connection with the General Assembly are hereby invited to take an early opportunity of preaching on the subject of the evil which is done by gambling, and the attitude which all Christian people should adopt with regard to it.