

paganism. The believer in Jesus explains his own songfulness in the conclusive question: "How Can I Keep from Singing?" Christianity is not only a religion that sings, but also it is the religion that sings. No other faith is so the cult of carols and the school of praise. The Christian sings because he has something to sing about. The believer's face is aglow with joy and his speech inevitably quickens into song. When Jesus Christ put Himself into the world He put song into the world. In saving men He saved their music also. And so ever and everywhere the religion of Christ has the lift of hope, of brave joy, of cheery brightness. Christian faith elevates song while it quickens it. It inspires a poetry which is peerless. Atheism is dumb, but there is music to Christianity. Skepticism is not singable, but Christ to-day is leading the grandest chorus of the world. English literature is already full of the lyrics of the Christ, while the poets are still searching for new tributes to bring to His name. The sublimest oratorios have had inspiration from the Nazarene. Christianity is a religion that can sing, and that does sing.

**Gaelic Course at Knox College.**

A new departure at Knox College this session will be the institution of a course of Gaelic instruction under the auspices of the Gaelic Society of Toronto, which has generously offered \$100 to be divided into scholarships in connection with the class, and who have provided the instruction free of charge to the students. It is estimated that there are 150 congregations in Canada in which the ability to preach in Gaelic is a necessary qualification of the pastor while a knowledge of that language is found useful everywhere throughout Canada in pastoral work. Therefore, the course now arranged for ought to be taken full advantage of by students who have the Gaelic field in view. Following is syllabus of lessons intended to be followed:—

- October 8th. I. Gaelic Alphabet and Phonetics.
- " 15th. II. Reading—John 1—  
Grammar—John 1, 1-6.—Illustrating Article and Noun.
- " 22nd. III. Reading—Prov. 1—and short sentences (selected)  
Grammar—Prov. 1, 1-12, sentences Adjective and Pronoun.
- " 29th. IV. Lecture—"Gaelic literature of the Asiatic Period"
- November 5th. V. Reading—Gen. 1—selected exercises. Translation.  
Grammar—Gen. 1, 1-12, illustrating the Verb.
- " 12th. VI. Reading—Rev. xxi. 1—selected exercises. Translation.  
Grammar—Rev. xxi. 1-10. The Adverb.
- " 19th. VII. Reading—Selections from Dugal Buchanan. Translation.  
Grammar—"An Gearradh" 30 lines. The Preposition.
- " 26th. IX. Lecture—"Gaelic literature of the Columbian Period"
- December 3rd. X. Readings—Selections from Dugal Buchanan. Translation.  
Grammar—"An Gearradh" 30 lines. The Conjunction.
- " 10th. XI. Reading—Selections from D. MacIntyre. Translation.  
Grammar—"Colre chathalach" 30 lines.
- " 17th. XII. Lecture—"Gaelic literature—Liamore, Carswell, Fernald and other M. SS."
- January 7th. XIII. Reading—Selections from A. Macdonald, and Peter Grant.  
Translation.  
Grammar—"Allt an t-Àluic" 16 lines.  
Elements of Gaelic Philology (MacLain).
- " 14th. XIV. Reading—Selections from Norman MacLeod, W. Ross and E. MacColl. Translation.  
Grammar—"Spiorad na h-òise" 20 lines.  
Gaelic Philology—MacLain and Cameron.
- " 21st. XV. Reading—Ossian "A Ghrian an am laithe" Translation.  
Grammar—" 20 lines.  
Gaelic Philology—MacLain and Cameron.
- " 28th. XVI. Lecture—"Gaelic literature, modern, the Period from Macdonald."

**Sabbath School Publications.**

At the last meeting of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee the Convener, Rev. Dr. T. F. Fotheringham, St. John N. B., was instructed to advise Presbyteries, that by the end of January next, the Committee would be able to lay information before them which it is desirable they should have before discussing the future of the Sabbath School Publications. This is gratifying news and in stating the fact Dr. Fotheringham adds: "By the date mentioned we shall issue a brief circular giving the state of finances at the close of 1896, and the number of subscriptions received for the periodicals for 1897. These facts bear very materially upon the question referred to them by the General Assembly, and the S. S. Committee would respectfully suggest that Presbyteries defer the consideration of the remnant S. S. helps and the appointment of an editor, until this information is available."

It seems that the publications have been successful this year. The subscription list has gone on steadily advancing during the summer, and with the present number of subscribers the printer estimates by the end of 1897 a surplus of more than \$200, and with double the present number of subscribers which ought to be secured a surplus of \$3000. Dr. Fotheringham pleads for one year's fair trial to the publications.

**A Centenarian Next Year.**

A little after the formation in England of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society in 1792 there was further formed, by the reflex influence of all missionary effort, a Home Missionary Society. This society will, therefore, be a centenarian next year. It is purposed to celebrate the event by a Bazaar to be held in London during the coming May. It is hoped that a success somewhat similar to that which attended the centenary celebration of the Foreign Society may fill the coffers of the sister organization.

**For Consolances Sake.**

When the pastors of the churches in El Paso, Texas, opposed the projected prize fight in that city last winter, it was published that the merchants and other classes would withhold their support from them. Private advice just received from there states that all the Protestant pastors who were in the city at that time have been compelled to vacate their pulpits through want of congregations and financial support. Unless this fact can be explained away it puts the people of El Paso on a level with the swine-herds and swine owners of Gadara who besought Jesus to depart out of their country.

**The Senate at the Bar of Public Opinion.**

It cannot be said that the Dominion Senate has added to its reputation for good sense by refusing to remove the liquor bar from the precincts of the chamber. The resolution is a backward step which the country will note with pain and which will be set down in the long account between the people and the irresponsible body. The Senate, not being directly answerable to the people has defied public opinion and shown itself incapable of appreciating the onward trend of events. It is but one instance of many, showing the moss-grown condition of the venerable legislators. As every drop adds to the cup, the day may not be very far distant when the sleepy patient may be given an awakening draught.

**Systematic Study of the Bible.**

Of the importance of the Systematic Study of the Bible there never was any doubt. The neglect of it in higher schools and colleges is being deplored by some of the New England Universities who have discovered the appalling want of information about the Bible shown by young men who are said to be educated. It is proposed to organize instruction in the Bible as Literature, as a book, or a Hebrew and Greek literature, that has made so extensive an impression on the literature of the world. The study would be solely secular and literary. How much better is the systematic study of the Bible as the Word of God, now given in our denominational schools and colleges; not only superficial and literary, but reverent and devout; the more fully scientific that it embraces all the facts in the case, not omitting the one supreme fact that this book is the inspired word of God's redemption.

The priests of the Orthodox Russian Church of New York are about to begin the publication of a journal in the interests of their communion. It will be printed in parallel columns in Russian and English. The Greek Church claims to have 50,000 members in the United States.