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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

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For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to frequent requests, for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Patheringham, M.A., Chairman 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 20 cents each. Address—

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Notes of the Week.

MISS SORABJI, who is a B.A. of Bombay University, has passed the B.C.L. degree at Oxford, which will qualify her to give legal advice to such women as prefer a lawyer of their own sex, but Portia should not limit their services to women only, the original Portia did not do so.

THE Rev. Dr. Mathews, Secretary of the Presbyterian Alliance, and the Rev. Professor Blaikie, D.D., of Edinburgh, Moderator of the Free Church, were to leave England for the Pan Presbyterian Council at Toronto on the 30th July. Some of the delegates have already reached this side the Atlantic and others will arrive at a later date.

THE Rev. Dr. Mackennal, of Bowden, speaking at the Grindelwald Conference, said that perhaps the English Nonconformists had undervalued the permanence of historical institutions. The English Churchmen could supply the deficiency. But no re-union was possible which should involve the denial by the Nonconformists of the doctrine held by their fathers that spiritual communities should be subject to spiritual rule.

MR. NAOROJI is a Parsee, of which sect there are not a hundred thousand in India. As a lad he was a prize-winner at school and a good cricketer; he has been a professor of mathematics, a merchant, Finance Minister to Gaikwar, of Baroda, and a member of the Legislative Council in Bombay. As he won his election by only five votes, it may be inferred that he owes it largely to Lord Salisbury's gibe at him as 'a black man.'

AT a recent meeting of the Free Presbytery of Inverness Rev. M. Mackay, D.D., lodged a protest on his own behalf to the effect that he in licensing a probationer or elder would only do so on the old lines, and Rev. M. Mackenzie, Inverness, along with his friends, who were not members of Assembly, lodged a protest against the action of Assembly regarding the Declaratory Act, and adhering to the position taken by Mr. Macaskill.

MR. DUNCAN MACNEILL has died at the age of fifty-five. He was one of the founders and trustees of Down Lodge Hall, a mission hall in Wandsworth, built as a memorial of Mr. Moody's visit in 1884. Like Sir William McKinnon, his uncle, he was one of the subscribers to the Emin Pasha relief expedition, and he took a great interest in the opening of the Dark Continent. His widow is the daughter of the late Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart.

THE new Sunday Rest Law is now in force in Berlin. Its general effect is to suspend all employment and close all places of business, except restaurants and cafes, between 10 p.m. on Saturday and 2 a.m. on Sunday, and after 2 p.m. on Sunday. Although the law creates a great innovation in the habits of the Berliners, no difficulty was experienced in enforcing its provisions, and the shops were doubly busy during trading hours.

ONE of the admirable things seen in Canada and British Columbia, says a Scottish contemporary, is the mounted police. Not numerous, but omnipresent, they are respected by every Indian and feared by every rogue. Independent of local politics, jealous of the reputation of their corps, they make peace in the wilderness and give security to the

lonely pioneer. It is no credit to our Government, says a United States contemporary, that we have been too proud to learn the lesson taught by their wonderful organization.

FROM the census statistics recently published in Ireland, it is shown that alone among the various religious bodies in Ireland, Methodists and Jews are on the increase. Roman Catholics have a decrease of 411,146, or 10.4 per cent., since 1881; Protestant Episcopalians have decreased 38,744, or 6.4 per cent.; Presbyterians have declined by 24,047, or 5.1 per cent. There are at the present time 55,235 Methodists in Ireland—an increase on the ten years of 6,396, or 13.1 per cent.; while the Jews have advanced from 472 to 1,798.

THE *Christian Leader* remarks: We are a little exercised by lively talking in our Assemblies, but we are not alone. The *Sydney Presbyterian*, an excellent and readable paper, tells us that in the Queensland General Assembly Rev. W. D. Meiklejohn said that a good deal had been heard recently about the inefficiency of ministers educated in the colony. He could say this, that the greatest duffers they have ever had came from the old country, they were the most inefficient ministers Queensland ever had! These remarks being considered somewhat unparliamentary, Mr. Meiklejohn was at this point ruled out of order.

THE Rev. Peter Leys, senior pastor of the First Church, Strathaven, has just died in Edinburgh. Mr. Leys, it will be remembered, was prominently before the public in connection with a case in the Court of Session for the custody of his two grandchildren. On the death of his daughter-in-law Mr. Leys brought up the two children, and while they were under his charge his son went over to the Church of Rome and afterwards raised an action to have the children returned to him. Mr. Leys strenuously resisted the action, and although the Court decided against him he refused to comply with the order and was sent to prison. However, he was shortly released, and the children, when of age to decide for themselves, returned to their grandparent.

THE *Christian Leader* gives its readers the following condensed and accurate account of Toronto Churches: The "mother church" of United Presbyterianism in Toronto was the old Bay street congregation, of which the late Rev. Dr. John Jennings was first pastor (1839-1874), and from which the St. James' Square congregation branched off in 1853. A later secession from Bay street (in 1875) formed what is now the Central Presbyterian Church. But the direct representative of the old Bay street congregation is Erskine Church, of which Rev. W. A. Hunter is now pastor, having (in 1888) succeeded the late Rev. John Smith, who was the immediate successor of Rev. Dr. Jennings. Dr. Jennings, then of Rathillet, was ordained for Canada in Cupar Fife in 1838. The first minister of St. James' Square was the late Rev. John Taylor, M.D., D.D., who was professor of theology to the United Presbyterian Church, Canada. Before leaving for the Dominion, Dr. Taylor was pastor, for twenty-five years, at Aughtermuchty, and on returning to Scotland was inducted to the United Presbyterian Church, Busby, April 2, 1863. The Hon. Thomas Wardlaw Taylor, a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench for Manitoba, Winnipeg, is a son of Doctor Taylor. We have further to add that Dr. Taylor's successor in the ministry in Toronto, and Dr. Kellogg's predecessor, was Rev. John M. King, D.D., now Principal of the Presbyterian College, Winnipeg. Dr. Kellogg, as we lately intimated, has accepted an invitation to superintend the work of Bible translation in India.

THE *Christian Leader* says. In the lively and readable *Preacher's Monthly*, edited by Mark Guy Pearse, there is a paper by Rev. S. E. Keeble on "Scamped Work," which raises some interesting questions. There is no pride so justifiable as the pride in good handicraft, Carlyle used when in

Ecclefechan to go to the old arched house where he was born, and looking at it he would say: "My grandfather built that. He was a better man than I!" But if there is room for pride in good work, there is also shame in bad. At a recent restoration in Peterborough Cathedral it was found that some of the principal pillars had been filled in with rubble instead of being solid stone. "Just as if it had been done to day!" said a builder who stood by, feeling that the old master contractors of four hundred years or so knew a thing or two. Nothing is free from scamped work—not our houses, not our clothes, not our furniture, nor yet our drains. The back comes out of a study chair. It has only been slightly glued in. A mother of pearl button explodes. It is not mother-of-pearl, but compressed gun cotton. The drain pipe, warranted for ten years, loses its enamel and becomes a sponge of impurity, foster-mother of fevers and diphtherias. Is the workman to blame? Seldom. He has to put in what he is told. It is the cheap contractor, the jerry builder. Houses which are "chucked together anyhow," furniture which is dear at nothing. "Cheap things are dear things" is a good proverb. Bargains of which we say, "They were never made for the price," are dear at any price. They were made at the cost of our fellow-creatures' blood and tears. The job contractor, the merchant "cutting rates"—these are the devil's agents. The mercantile system must be Christianized. The Christian of the Sunday pew must become the Christian of the Monday shop and the Tuesday workshop. It is a long lane that has no turning. Surely Christ will, if we pray and hope, either come in person or show us some way out of all this!

THE following is a summary of an address delivered recently to the theological students of a Welsh College by the Rev. Dr. Maclaren, of Manchester. The ideas expressed are worthy of consideration: The preacher's power depends largely on the firmness of his convictions and the decision of his character. Men will always be swayed by strong definite convictions and firm wills. John the Baptist was remarkable for trenchant clearness of his message and consecration and boldness of his proclamation. What does a man become a preacher for unless he has some belief which he thinks important enough to spend his life in proclaiming? Languid talk never impresses itself on hearers. Earnest conviction is contagious. Youth and student days are for the formation and consolidation of opinion, and it is unfair to expect old heads on young shoulders. A premature certainty and fixity of creed is often followed by a too late rejection of it. The man who believes without inquiry when he is young often has his doubts at the wrong time when he is old. They are then especially dangerous, like whooping cough and the measles in an adult. I do not want you to be prematurely certain or dogmatists when you ought to be enquirers. But on the other hand do not cherish doubt as good or a mark of intellectual pre-eminence. When entering the pulpit see that the atmosphere is clear. Consume your own smoke. Smoke is dangerous to congregations as well as to cities. The surest way to win popularity is not to seek for it. Meekness and gentleness are stronger than all bluster. There is more force in sunbeams than electricity. There is more electricity in a gentle shower of rain than in a storm of thunder and lightning. The power of a preacher depends largely on the simplicity and unworldliness of his life. It may seem needless to talk of about worldliness to preachers; you would not have chosen your life if you had wanted to become rich or were in love with ease; but let me touch for a minute on the necessity of rigid simplicity and clear freedom from suspicion of worldliness. Worldliness saps the soul of a minister's devotion, concentration of service cannot survive that taint. The eye dazzled by earthly lights cannot see stars when one goes out in the night. Suspicion of it is fatal to influence. The preacher's power depends largely on his consciousness of a Divine message. The preacher's power depends most of all on his being and knowing that he is "Christ's messenger." The power of our ministry will be in direct proportion to our own glad tidings of ourselves in Him.