

record. As many as 4,477 schools were opened and closed with prayer, and in 2,851 the Ten Commandments were taught. There was an increase of 15 on the number of Roman Catholic separate schools, making these, at the end of 1879, 191, with a decrease of the number of pupils, but a small addition to the staff of teachers.

Upon the whole the work of education seems to be making satisfactory progress, though details are not given so fully in this report as in some of those previously issued.

OBITUARY.

Mr. George Secord died at his residence in St. Ann's, Wednesday, 12th inst., aged seventy-five years. The deceased was elected to Parliament immediately after Confederation, being first Conservative member for Monck County. He was for many years an elder in the Presbyterian Church at St. Ann's, and was always characterized by humility and modesty in all his intercourse with the world, either as a Christian or a politician.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—A *pro re nata* meeting was held on the 18th inst. A call from Shakespeare, St. Andrew's, and Hampstead to Mr. J. McClung of Balaklava, was sustained as a regular Gospel call and the necessary steps ordered for his induction at Shakespeare at half-past two on the 10th prox. Mr. Hishop to preside, Mr. Kay to preach, Mr. Gordon to address the minister, and Mr. Waits the people. The call was unanimous and hearty, the stipend promised \$800, payable quarterly in advance, together with a manse, and an assurance of the prospect of an early increase of the amount. Mr. James W. Mitchell's resignation of the charge of the congregation of Mitchell was accepted, and Mr. Hamilton appointed Moderator of the session *ad interim*.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This court met in Jarvis, on the 18th January. The circular from the Assembly's Committee on Temperance was considered, and a committee appointed to prepare a finding. A call from the congregations of East Seneca, Blackheath, and Caistor, to the Rev. D. Mann, was sustained, a call from Emerson, Manitoba, to Rev. Thomas McGuire, was laid upon the table, and the congregations are to be cited to appear for their interests on the 1st February, at Jarvis. The report of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Association was read, and the Presbytery expressed great satisfaction with the report. In the evening a conference on Sabbath schools was held, at which there was a large and attentive congregation present. A committee was appointed to prepare a finding on this subject, having also reference to the matters contained in the report adopted by last General Assembly.—**JOHN LAING, Pres. Clerk.**

PRESBYTERY OF WHITBY.—The Presbytery of Whitby met in Oshawa on the 18th Jan., and appointed the Rev. Adam Spenser, moderator for the next twelve months. Several of the session records were presented and examined, and found carefully and correctly kept. The others were ordered to be produced at the meeting in April. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for a Sabbath School convention, to be held this winter, within the bounds of the Presbytery. Missionary meetings had either been held or arrangements were made for holding them, in all the congregations, and the Presbytery expressed its thanks to Mr. Drummond, who had visited the congregations and presented the claims of our Home Mission, accompanied with a map of our mission field. On the sustentation scheme sent down from the General Assembly, the Presbytery unanimously agreed, that although the sustentation scheme, such as is proposed, has attractions and possible advantages, yet, in the present state of the Church, we are of opinion, that a supplemental scheme will meet the wants of our Church more fully, and therefore we express our preference for such a scheme. Members were instructed to forward their reports on the State of Religion, to the Rev. W. M. Roger, Ashburn, and on Sabbath school work, to the Rev. James Little, Bowmanville, not later than the 31st of March. Mr. McCulloch, student, applied to be taken on trials for license; he produced the necessary papers. It was agreed that he undergo the preliminary examination at the April meeting. The circular from the General Assembly's committee was read, and handed over to a committee to report on it and make the necessary arrangements for holding a conference on temperance in April.—**A. A. DRUMMOND, Pres. Clerk.**

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

MEMOIR OF GOVERNOR ANDREW OF MASSACHUSETTS. (Boston: Roberts Brothers. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.)—A very interesting account of a very worthy, good man. But Governor Andrew, we suspect, is not so well known in Canada as to lead many to seek to trace the incidents in his life history. He was Governor of Massachusetts during the great civil war, and was the first to urge the embodiment of coloured troops and the abolition of slavery, as a necessary and very proper war measure. The biographer is rather effusive in his expressions of admiration for the gentleman whose life he sketches, and does not appear to have had much experience in that sort of work.

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY, edited by G. Mercer Adam, closes its second year with a first-class number. "Owned, and in the main conducted, by teachers, it is the aim of all connected with it to make the publication indispensable to teachers," and it is but fair to add that the conductors of the magazine have succeeded tolerably well in their efforts. How far the teachers of Ontario have responded, we can't say. One thing is certain, if the "Educational Monthly" does not receive the hearty co-operation and support of the profession, in whose interest it is published, the editor is not to blame, for he has succeeded in bringing out a periodical in every way a credit to the teachers of this Province.

STORIES OF THE SEA. By E. E. Hale. (Boston: Roberts Brothers. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.)—Just a book for bright, intelligent, adventurous boys who wish to know all about adventures at sea in the brave days of old as well as in present times. Columbus, the Spanish Armada, Alexander Selkirk, the Buccaneers, Paul Jones, Nelson, Pitcairn's Island, naval battles and shipwrecks, with much else, all find a record in this volume. Of course it is to be borne in mind that Mr. Hale is an American, and writes specially for boys of the United States. But the bias is not very noticeable, and not more on that side than many similar narratives by English writers are on the other—indeed, perhaps not so much; and at any rate the doings of the United States navy occupy but a small part of the volume. The book is an exceedingly interesting one.

PROGRESS AND POVERTY: An Inquiry into the Cause of Industrial Depressions, and of Increase of Want with Increase of Wealth. The Remedy. By Henry George. (New York: D. Appleton & Co.; Toronto: Hart & Wilson.)—This is a book written with unquestionable ability and great earnestness of purpose, but its fundamental principle is, we believe, essentially unsound, and its proposed remedy for the many evils resulting from the marked and growing inequality in the distribution of property would, we are persuaded, only make confusion worse confounded. The fundamental principle is, that absolute individual ownership of land is essentially unjust, and ought never to be tolerated; that the land belongs to the community as a whole, and ought always to be held and used for their benefit and theirs only; and that at any moment such community have a right to resume, without compensation, any ownership which may, under mistaken ideas, and from wrong principles, have been for a longer or shorter period accorded to individuals. The neglect of this principle has, according to Mr. George and his school, been the great cause of all our social troubles and all the suffering and poverty with which individuals have been afflicted, and of course the remedy is to be found in return to the more excellent way of the land being all held in common for the use of all and the benefit of all. This theory is not by any means new. The failures in trying to reduce it to practice have also been mortifyingly conspicuous. At the same time it does not follow that either the present or past laws as to the tenure of land are all that they ought to be. Very much the reverse. And we should hope that the discussions and agitations of the present day in connection with the subject, while not issuing in the result to which Mr. George so earnestly points, may bring round a healthier and more equitable state of things than has hitherto prevailed either in the old world or the new. While we say this, it is well never to lose sight of the fact that much of the misery complained of, and of the social inequality so unsparingly denounced, arises from moral causes, and can only be rectified by moral

means. Improvidence, vicious indulgence, reckless extravagance, planless idleness, and much else of a similar description, have more to do with the evils which Mr. George so vividly describes and so earnestly deplores than private property in land; and so long as these continue, the resumption by the State of all the real property of a country would do little if anything to make the individual either happier or better. It is the old story of trying to transmute a brass farthing into a golden guinea by the aid of a flannel cloth and a little whitening, combined with the requisite amount of rubbing.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.—A quarterly meeting of this court was held in St. Paul's Church, on Tuesday, the 11th of January, at eleven a.m. Present, thirty clerical and eight lay members. After routine business, Principal McVicar was chosen Moderator for the next six months. He was also, at a subsequent stage, unanimously nominated by the Presbytery as Moderator of next General Assembly. The attention of the Presbytery having been called to the public-spirited and very generous action of Mr. David Morrice, a member of this court, on behalf of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, the following motion was submitted by the Clerk, seconded by Rev. P. S. Livingston: "The Presbytery have heard with the utmost satisfaction of the decision of Mr. David Morrice, Chairman of the Board of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, to erect at his own expense, for the use of the College, a convocation hall, a library, a dining hall, and thirty-three additional rooms for students. They record their warmest appreciation of this munificent gift for the Lord's work, tender Mr. Morrice most cordial thanks, and express the hope that by similar liberality on the part of others the present effort to remove existing liabilities and to endow the institution may be crowned with complete success." After a hearty expression of appreciation on the part of individual members, the Presbytery adopted the motion and instructed the Clerk to send an extract of this minute to Mr. Morrice. Conveners of missionary deputations reported, and arrangements were made for completing the series of missionary meetings during the present quarter. Rev. Mr. Warden reported on behalf of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee. In terms of its recommendations the Presbytery resolved to open a mission station at Dillon, county of Brome, in connection with the Huntingdon copper mines, and appointed a committee to organize a congregation at Pointe aux Trembles in accordance with the laws of the Church. The Examining Committee reported in favour of the following students as candidates for admission to the College for the current year: John A. Townsend, Samuel Rondeau, and John P. Grant. A letter from Mr. Anthony Caubone, ex-priest, whose application was before the Presbytery at last meeting was read, thanking the Presbytery for its decision then and assistance rendered since. Rev. James McCaul was appointed Convener of the Presbytery's Sabbath School Committee. The Rev. John Irvine's resignation of his charge was finally accepted amid expressions of regret on the part of the congregation and his brethren in the Presbytery, and a committee was appointed to draw up a suitable minute. Mr. Hally was appointed Moderator of session *pro tem.*, Mr. Brouillette to preach Mille Isle vacant on the 30th of January; future supply to be given by students and other available missionaries. The committee appointed to consider and report on the Assembly's remit on a general sustentation fund, unanimously recommended the principle of a sustentation rather than a supplemental fund. Also that the remit be sent down to sessions for consideration; returns to be forwarded to the committee, who are instructed to report at a special meeting of Presbytery to be held here on Tuesday, the 1st March. Rev. A. B. Mackay's motion anent examination of students applying for license, was withdrawn upon Mr. Campbell's giving notice of an overture to the General Assembly on this subject. Rev. P. S. Livingston and the Clerk were appointed a committee to receive and report on returns from Kirk sessions on the State of Religion. The Presbytery resolved to hold a conference on this subject at next ordinary meeting, to be followed by a conference on temperance in terms of instruction of the General Assembly. The Presbytery adjourned to meet in St. Paul's Church, Montreal, on the first Tuesday of April (5th), at eleven a.m.—**JAMES PATTERSON, Pres. Clerk.**