RUSSIAN CONQUEST IN CENTRAL ASIA.

From the time of Yermak Russia has not halted in her career of Asiatic conquest. So Indited in her career of Asiatic conquest. So rapidly did she push forward that her flag dominated nearly five raillion square miles of territory in less than reventy years from the founding of the fort on the Irlish. The hamer of the black Eagle was borne neethward to the shores of the Force occum, along the valleys of the Obi, the Yenicei, and the Lene; it floated where the waters of the Okotsk Sez kiss the base of the Stanovoi Mountains, and open their broad stateway to the Pacific; it was all on the Stanovoi Mountains, and open their broad gate-way to the Pacific; it waved on the banks of the Amoon, along whose parent streams the Mongol shephe ide wander, and was held aloft on the plain where Gengie-Khan, the conqueror of Persia and Cathay, first saw the light, and fancied he heard heavenly voices calling him to conquest and a career of glory. Southward to the Altai Mountains it was carried, and from the summits of those lofty peaks it hung menacingly toward Contral Asia, as the northern winds impelled it. The indomitable Russian will sustained it, and wherever it was planted its supporters The indomitable Russian will sustained it, and wherever it was planted its supporters were determined to romain. Northward there were only scattered tribes, who could offer but a feeble resistance; eastward were the Chinese, and the releas of the Celestial Empire early saw the impending danger. To expel the Russians from the Amoor they sent a large army, and after an obstinate struggle, in which the Chinese were twice forced to retire, they gained their point by a treaty, and compolled the Russians to depart from the places where they had established forts and planted fields of wheat and corn. For a hundred and fifty years the Russian advance in that direction was stopped, but it was renewed in 1354, when stopped, but it was renewed in 1354, when a Russian expedition seized the Amoor and held it by main force until diplomacy, skilfully following the Chinese reverses in the war with France and England, secured by treaty what had been taken without warrant of law. The Russian eye is fixed on Mongolia; portious of it have fallen into Mongolia; portions of it have fallen into Russian hands, and other portions will be taken with each succeeding decade, until the whole, or all that is worth taking, has been seized. Manifest destiny is apparent in the Russian maps of Eastern Siberia. On all these maps, published in the last ten years. Mongolia is delineated with more than ordinary care, and it is evident that the compiler intended to save the expense and trouble of new editions at frequent in-tervals. His work was performed for the future, not for the present, and judging by the rapid growth of events, the future for which he labored is not a distant one.

Russian progress in Central Asia has been oven more rapid than in the eastern part of the continent. Central Asia is considered more important than Manchoria and the plains of Gobi, and the Muscovite eye is more firmly set upon it.—Thomas W. Knox, in Harper's Magazine for July.

METHODS OF PREPARATION.

In the year of our Lord 1872 it seems like wasting words to remind Christians of the necessity of making preparation for their Bible-school duties. Does not the worker in wood and stone prepare himself carefully for his duties? Failure in his art would result in the breaking of a stone, or a piece of wood being rendered useless. Yet it romains as a repreach to the Christian Church that men and women accept positions as teachers of the young, asundershopherds to lead them to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, without concern, without prayer, and with little or no preparation for this great work where immortal soule are at stake.

The superintendent should be an example

The superintendent should be an example to his school. He should be intelligent, apt, prudent, prompt, geady, patient, pious, prayerful, and pleasant. He should seek to supply deficiencies in the qualities named, by wise and persovering efforts.

Requisites: Bible, Bible dictionary, and either a commentary or an exposition of the

Read the whole chapter from which the lesson is taken. If the lesson is connected with the previous one, read all the inter-vening Scripture. It may be wise to read over a second or third time, in order not only to get the subject matter of the lesson, but al events precedin ing. Carefully notice any difficult words that may need explanation; consult your Bible dictionary.

You are now prepared to take your lesson journal and read the lesson and the explanations there given (remembering that the latter are written by fellible men like the latter are written by fellible men like yourself), as a help to your better understanding of it. Do not forget to think while you are doing this. Your preparation is now emphatically the scholar's preparation; you know the lesson. The scholar's preparation will not suffice for you; in addition to knowing the lesson you are interested in imparting it, which requires special skill and preparation.

Look once more over your lesson and de-

Look once more over your lesson and docide what strong point you wish to make prominent in your sensol. There may be many good things in the lesson, but you have twenty-five minutes only to devote to instruction, and must succeed on one point rather than fail on all.—Sunday School

METHODISTS.—The total number of Methodists in Ireland is 19,000. During the past year there has been an increase in England of 2,300 members, and 16,000 on trial. The most decided advance has been in the manufacturing centres.

One third of the whole number of Euro pean children in India die under six month-old; eighty-live per cent. die before the age of two years; and out of one hundred infants born only cleven attain maturity. It appears from statistics lately published that out of 11,000 soldiers', children in India, that out of 11,000 soldiers children in India, a very large proportion were ill every day throughout the year 1871. The Indian empire costs Great Britain much every year in the sacrifice of soldiers in the treuches and on the pattle-field, but a far more nu-merous army are buried in children's

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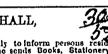
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