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## Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, JULY, 1898.

## Light on the Lessons.

It is, in many respects, a liberal education in itself to follow the course of the Sunday-school lessons from year to year. They come in close touch with very many points of sacred and secular history which are engaging the most earnest thought of scholars, explorers, and interpreters of ancient monuments and ancient tongues.

The recent lessons on the life of our Lord and of the early church treat the most important themes in the history of our world and the most important aspects of human development. The studies for the current half year on the history of the Hebrew monarchy are also full of sacred and secular interest. The Hebrew people were brought into intimate relations with the great monarchies of antiquity. Thus Hebrew thought and development receive a permanent impress, and "the Law, which is a school-

master to bring men to Christ," greatly influenced the mighty Medo-Persian monarchy of Cyrus. In our coming lessons the history of the Chaldeans, of Assyria, and Babylonia are brought directly under review. The labours of Layard and Rawlinson, Smith and Sayce, and other British explorers and investigators throw a flood of light upon some of the profoundest problems of Old Testament history.

We have thought it well, therefore, to treat in The Methodist Magazine and Review some of those themes in which the great body of our readers are so directly interested. We have not space in The Banner for a full treatment of these important themes, especially from their literary and historic side, nor have we the opportunity to illustrate with suitable engravings these very interesting and important topics. We are, however, preparing a series of illustrated articles on these subjects for the forty-eighth volume of The Methodist Magazine and Review, which begins with the July number.

One of these is an article on "Elijah, and the Lessons of his Life," by the able and eloquent Rev. S. Parkes Cadman, of the Metropolitan Temple, New York, whose recent visits to Montreal and Toronto made such a profound impression.

Another is a very graphic article by Canon Tristram on "Mount Carmel," the scene of Elijah's conflict with the priests of Baal, and "The Coasts of Tyre and Sidon," with seventeen illustrations of very superior merit.

Another handsomely illustrated article is upon the "Lost Empires of the East," treating the recent discoveries of those ancient civilizations with which the Hebrew monarchy came in contact, and by which it was so largely affected.

Still another article, by Robert E. Anderson, M.A., F.A.S., gives in condensed form the story, in the light of the most recent discoveries, of the Chaldean, Assyrian, and Babylonian monarchies. Every Sunday-school teacher and superintendent, and indeed every Bible student, will find these articles of special interest in connection with the lessons for the current year.

In addition to these the July number will be of special patriotic character with papers by Rev. Principal Grant on "The Relations of Canada to the Empire," by Prince Kropotkin on "Our National Inheritance," by the Rev. G. S. Payson on "The Future of the Anglo-Saxon Race." Other illustrated articles

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