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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to frequent demands for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener 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 10 cents each. Address—

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Notes of the Week.

THE Archdeacon of London, preaching in St. Paul's, appealed strongly for the development of sympathy and co-operation between the members of the Church of England and Nonconformists. No question of mere Government, he said, ought to separate Christians.

UNDER the Marchioness of Dufferin's scheme for giving medical teaching, medical relief and female nurses to the women of India, 466,000 females, of whom 57,115 were in native states, received treatment last year. The staff consists of nine lady doctors with British qualifications and thirty-one assistant surgeons and female practitioners.

THE National Anti-Gambling League of Scotland is making rapid strides in organization. Mr. J. Campbell White, of Overtoun, has been appointed honorary president of Glasgow branch. The promoters of Church bazaars are likely to be approached to put down raffles, which prevent the execution of the law against more objectionable forms of gambling.

THE London *Presbyterian* says. The money that would have been otherwise spent on flowers at Dr. Donald Fraser's funeral has, at Mrs Fraser's desire, been applied for the benefit of the Bell Street Mission in connection with Marylebone Church. We believe that, out of the profound respect felt for Dr. Fraser, the arrangements for the funeral were all carried out free of charge, with the necessary exception of the railway expenses.

THE convocation of York has shunted a proposal to revise the Revised Version. The convocation of Canterbury has appointed a committee to draw up marginal references. A proposal, that no scholars outside the Church of England should be invited to assist, was only defeated in the lower house by thirteen to twelve. It has been pointed out that the minority constantly use Cruden's Concordance, and Cruden was a Dissenter.

THE International Bible Reading Association, started and promoted largely by the efforts of Mr. Charles Waters, honorary secretary of the British section of the Christian Endeavour Society, now numbers 370,000 members, the gain in membership during the last year being over 70,000. Nearly 300,000 are in the United Kingdom, not more than 7,000 being found in the United States and Canada. Mr. Waters is a business man in London, a member of the English International Sunday School Lesson Committee, and an earnest worker in the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

ACCORDING to the *Grashdanin*, severe persecution and extortion are being carried on by the orthodox clergy in Siberia. The journal states that in Western Siberia if persons of the Greek faith refuse to pay the clergy rent for the lands belonging to the Church, even though they do not use them, the police, instigated by the priests, put them in prison and seize their goods. In Eastern Siberia, it is alleged, the Buddhists are subjected to terrible persecutions. The police hunt them down, tracking them even into the depths of the forest, and when captured they are flogged and tortured in order to convert them to the Orthodox Faith. It is added that even delicate women are subjected to this brutal treatment.

THE Rev. J. A. Spurgeon has addressed a circular to the members of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, from which we learn that the officers have requested him to take the leadership of the Church, and he has consented to do so, at least until they see their way more clearly as to what will be best for the Church itself and its many large agencies. Mr. Charles Spurgeon's health has been so broken for some time that the supervision of the Church and its work fell into the hands of his brother, so that the position is hardly a new one, and Mr. James Spurgeon will be familiar with its duties. "My heart is and will remain at rest," he says, "as to the preaching of the Word in our midst while my true colleague, Dr. A. T. Pierson, continues to carry that load for us with so much satisfaction to us all."

THE *British Weekly* says: Two men, General Booth and John McNeill, attracted a good deal of attention in Glasgow last week. On Wednesday afternoon the business community paused to give a respectful welcome, by their presence in the streets and at windows, to the head of the Army as he passed along in procession. On the same day and at its busiest hour seven or eight hundred business men were seen hurrying along George Street from the Merchant's House, where the meeting was to be held, to St. George's Church to hear John McNeill. The overflow meeting, and eager, hurrying crowd of Glasgow's business men from the Exchange and surrounding offices and warehouses, together with the continuance of the meetings next week, show clearly the interest and significance of the week's meetings.

AN English contemporary says. The subject of the Itinerancy is coming more and more to the front in Wesleyan circles. The committee appointed by the last Conference to consider the question has met, and the principal resolution, asserting the desirability of Conference obtaining power from Parliament to extend the three years' limit as it may deem advisable, was carried by twenty-four to one. Now for the safeguards. The committee recommend that the Conference should affirm three propositions—first, that no minister shall remain in a circuit more than three years unless the invitation be sustained by three-fourths of those present at the quarterly meeting; secondly, the exact character of the vote is to be reported to the Stationing Committee, and only on its recommendation shall such appointment be made; thirdly, no minister shall be allowed to remain in any circuit more than six years.

READERS probably have not forgotten the discussion which followed a curious sort of mathematical argument made by Canon Isaac Taylor several years ago, to show that Christianity was not gaining upon paganism and Mohammedanism; and that the brilliant but most misleading writer, Dr. Blyden, also published a number of articles to show the success of Mohammedanism as a missionary religion compared with Christianity. An interesting paper has lately been printed by Dr. Schreiber, of Barmen, on the prospects of Islam. He calculates that of the 175,000,000 Moslems 100,000,000 are already subject to Christian Powers, and that it will not be long before the remaining 75,000,000 will be in the same position. As a political power Islam has already fallen, and the loss of its temporal power is crushing and ruinous, unlike the effect of the loss of the temporal power by Rome. If Islam is gaining something in Africa among the Negro races, it is losing ground everywhere else. The Church Missionary Society reports 1,000 converts from Mohammedanism, the Rhenish Society 2,000, and in Java there are 12,000 Christians, most of whom were formerly Moslems.

AT a meeting of the Free Presbytery of Glasgow the Clerk read a communication from the College Committee, stating that Principal Douglas had intimated the resignation of the Chair of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis in the Glasgow College, and inviting nominations for the chair from Synods and Presbyteries. The committee suggested that the question of the Principalship should be

kept distinct and left to the decision of the Assembly. Mr. A. O. Johnston gave notice that he would nominate Mr. George Adam Smith, of Aberdeen, for the vacant chair. Mr. Howie also gave notice that he would nominate Mr. M. D. M'Lachlan, of Dalkeith. Dr. Taylor said that he believed there was a strong feeling that Dr. Douglas should be asked to retain the Principalship of the College, and he suggested that some step might be taken to impress that on the Assembly. Mr. Howie and others bore testimony to this strong feeling, not only in Glasgow, but throughout the Church, that Principal Douglas should retain the Principalship of the College. Dr. Taylor then gave notice that at next meeting he would move that the Presbytery forward to the College committee and to the Assembly their strong feeling that Dr. Douglas should be asked to retain the Principalship of the College.

THE Belfast *Witness* says: The announcement which was made in the Belfast Presbytery that Dr. Johnston will attain the jubilee of his ministry in May next will arouse the deepest interest all over the Church. There can be but one opinion as to the propriety, indeed the duty, of celebrating such an occasion in some fitting way. Dr. Johnston is beloved all over the Church as few men ever have been, and has rendered it service such as few have ever rendered it. As pastor and philanthropist, as clergyman and citizen, in Church Courts and committees, in the pulpit, on the platform and in the homes of the people, his has been, indeed, a busy, blessed life. The great congregation in Townsend Street, with its splendid new church, built and opened free of debt, is one of its results—the Presbyterian Orphan Society, with all its manifold ministrations of mercy, is another; but these are only two of the outcomes of a career which has been filled brimful of work for God and man—good work, unselfish, generous, self-sacrificing work. We quite agree with Mr. Park that while it is right to honour the memory of the dead, it is better to show, while men are living, how much we love and revere them, and so we are glad that the Presbytery has appointed a committee to consider how Dr. Johnston's Jubilee can most fittingly be celebrated. The whole Church will hail the proposal with gladness.

THE venerable Professor Godet has been called from his well-earned retirement to defend the principles which he has maintained so ably for half a century, and which, through his influence chiefly, have been recognized and accepted by the Free French Church of Switzerland. This Church, with its headquarters in Lausanne and the Vaud districts, is being shaken from centre to circumference by the agitation in advocacy of a new theology. Over against the Protestant Church of France proper, that of French Switzerland has been characterized by conservatism and confessionism, and the theological tendencies of modern theological and Biblical thought have affected it but little. Now this is changed, and a theology of consciousness, which is much like the anti-metaphysical scheme of the Ritschl school of Germany, is demanding recognition. Its protagonist is Pasteur Paul Chapuis, formerly professor in Lausanne and now editor of the aggressive *Evangéle et Liberté*. In his address at the opening of the Lausanne University, Chapuis practically reduced the divinity of Christ to moral perfection and interpreted the pre-existence of the Saviour even of the Scriptures. His cause is championed by the Senior of the Free Theological Faculty, the learned and honoured Professor Astié, who claims to represent the principles of Alexander Vinet and has developed the subjective principle in theology to a remarkable degree. This agitation has brought about the most serious crises the Free Church has been called upon to pass through in the fifty years of its existence, and the controversy is beginning to discredit the cause of independent churchdom in the eyes of those yet adhering to State Churches. Godet and his friends are called "Traditionalists" and "Intellectualists" by their adversaries. Godet has published a series of powerful articles against these theological innovations and new departures.