

NOW READY.

*The International
Scheme of S. S. Lessons*

FOR 1886.

Specially Prepared for Presbyterian Sabbath Schools.

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Notes of the Week.

At the fifth Monday Popular Concert the attendance and interest were undiminished. The management laudably endeavoured to meet the varied desires of the patrons of these truly popular entertainments. At the last concert the English ballad was the principal feature. Mr. Sherlock, of Kingston, sang with pleasing effect, and his efforts were encouragingly appreciated by many in the audience. Miss Beebe's rendering of several well-known ballads, widely differing in the sentiments expressed, fairly fascinated the listeners. The solos by Messrs. Jacobsen and Correll were enthusiastically received, and the performances of the quartette were very effective.

CONTENTION as to whether the Dominion or Provincial Parliaments have the right to legislate in all matters pertaining to the liquor traffic is now settled, and that in a most satisfactory manner. The English Privy Council has decided that the various Provinces have the exclusive right of control. Temperance sentiment is not equally advanced in all the Provinces; those that are not ripe for stringent legislation will not be forced to adopt measures that do not meet the wishes of a majority of the people, neither will those more advanced be compelled to wait for the slower movements of sister Provinces. The decision simplifies matters very much. Uncertainty is ended, and the evils incident to conflicting laws will now disappear. Those now valid beyond a doubt should be strictly enforced without fear or favour.

THE closing exercises of the Normal School Session on Friday evening last, were of a very pleasing description. Principal Kirkland presided. The musical and literary part of the programme was exclusively performed by the graduates. All did their parts in a most creditable manner. An interesting feature of the evening's entertainment was the calisthenic exercises, in which the performers, both ladies and gentlemen, displayed rhythmic precision and gracefulness. The kindergarten songs were also highly appreciated. Professor MacVicar, of McMaster Hall, gave several earnest and impressive counsels. Some of the teachers addressed a few farewell words; the Hon. G. W. Ross delivered a brief, happy and telling address, and, at the close, the graduates passed a very cordial vote of thanks to the Principal and Masters of the Normal School.

AT the last meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association, the officers for the ensuing year were elected as follow: President, Rev. John Burton, Northern Congregational Church; Vice-President, Rev. W. F. Blackstock, Riverside Methodist Church; Secretary, Rev. William Frizzell, Leslieville Presbyterian Church. Arrangements were made for a series of meetings during the week of prayer. A public meeting is to be held every afternoon at four o'clock in Shaftesbury Hall, beginning on Monday, January 4. The committee previously appointed to prepare answers to questions submitted by the Toronto Public School Principals' Association, on the Scriptural Selections prepared for use in the public schools, gave in their report. It was cautious and diplomatic in tone, neither condemning nor expressing approval of the selections, which have met with very general acceptance.

ON the site of the plain and unpretending building so long occupied by the Upper Canada Bible and Tract Society, on Yonge Street, Toronto, a handsome and commodious, yet inexpensive, structure is being erected. The ceremony of laying the top-stone was held last week, at which a number of the officers and friends of the institution were present. The various Evangelical Churches were well represented. Mr. J. K. Macdonald, as chairman, stated that \$9,000 had been subscribed, of which \$6,000 had been received. To complete the building the sum of \$3,000 more was required. The citizens of Toronto have given generously for the new building, and no doubt will do still more for it; but as the institution is designed for the general benefit of the country, it is not unreasonably hoped that friends of Bible circulation throughout Ontario will aid in completing the small amount still required. The stone was laid by the Hon. Senator Allen. The Rev. Dr. Reid, one of the oldest office-bearers of the Society, offered up the dedication prayer. He was afterward presented with a copy of the Revised Version, for which he made a neat and appropriate acknowledgment.

A SUSSEX, N. B., correspondent of the *St. John Telegraph* narrates the following: The many sights and tales of woe which our stipendiary magistrate, during a long official career, has been compelled to witness and hear, have, at times, been of the most lamentable kind, and perhaps none have been more so than the one which engaged his attention yesterday. A feeble woman, whose years had far exceeded those of the three score and ten was, by kind hands, assisted to his office, where she told her story of wrongs she had been compelled to endure and which, if true, are of the most painful kind. "Sixty years ago," said this old woman, "I came from Ireland and passed through Sussex Vale, where at that time scarcely a house could be seen, and settled with my husband in what is now the parish of Waterford. I have toiled early and late for many years, and have raised a family. My husband is dead, and they (four sons living) have left me; and because I am unable to support myself I am farmed out at a place where, because I could not eat fat pork, and for other reasons, I have been kicked and beaten in a most brutal manner, and now come to seek your protection. I have respectable persons who will bear testimony to what I am stating." The magistrate took her formal complaint, and has promised to take it in hand, and if it is as represented, he will bring the matter before the Solicitor-General. If her story is true, she is much to be pitied, and her sons also are to be pitied, though for a different reason.

A LEADING New York journal has discovered that a passage in the Presidential Message was written by Mr. Cleveland's sister. It may possess definite knowledge that such is the case, but does not so state. The conclusion to which it comes is based on internal evidence highly probable. The passage relating to the Mormon Question is the one referred to, and is as follows: The strength, the perpetuity and the destiny of the nation rest upon our homes, established by the law of God, guarded by parental care, regulated by parental authority and sanctified by parental love. These are not the homes of polygamy. The mothers of our land who rule the nation, as they mould the characters and guide the actions of their sons, live according to God's holy ordinances, and each, secure and happy in the exclusive love of the father of her children, sheds the warm light of true womanhood, unperverted and unpolluted, upon all within her pure and wholesome family circle. These are not the cheerless, crushed and unwomanly mothers of polygamy. The fathers of our families are the best citizens of the Republic. Wife and children are the sources of patriotism, and conjugal and parental affection beget devotion to the country. The man who, undefiled with plural marriage, is surrounded in his single home with his wife and children, has a stake in the country which inspires him with respect for its laws and courage for its defence. These are not the fathers of polygamous

families. There is no feature of this practice, or the system which sanctions it, which is not opposed to all that is of value in our institutions.

THE mission begun on Dorset Street, Toronto, by a few earnest workers in connection with St. Andrew's Church, has lately met with such encouraging success that its present quarters on Adelaide Street, near Simcoe, are found quite inadequate for its requirements. A suitable building was recently secured farther west, directly opposite the Upper Canada College grounds, into which the mission will be moved this week. One of the pleasing features of this mission is a free night school. It is superintended by Mr. Samuel Moore, who is assisted by fifteen ladies and gentlemen, members of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, who meet at the school every Tuesday and Thursday, for the purpose of instructing boys who cannot afford to attend the public schools during the day. The attendance at this free night-school averages about sixty, and includes street urchins, newsboys and others, whose instruction even in the rudiments of education would be neglected were it not for the Dorset Mission. Every Saturday evening from seven to nine o'clock is devoted to receiving deposits at the Penny Savings Bank in connection with the mission. This forms one of the most interesting branches of the work. The number of depositors is so great that on a recent Saturday evening, three members of the mission were kept continually busy for two hours, receiving and checking the money. In 1878, when the bank was first opened, there were 218 depositors, whose aggregate deposits amounted to \$530. During 1884 the total amount deposited was \$2,805, and this year, up to the present time, the number of single deposits is 868, and the total deposits amount to \$2,935. The deposits are made by people in different conditions of life. A Sabbath school at three o'clock p.m., and a sewing school at half-past three p.m. on Wednesdays, in connection with the Dorset Mission, are meeting with encouraging success.

THE Manitoba Protestant Board of Education have been grappling with the Scripture in Schools question. At their recent meeting, the superintendent reported that the Honourable the Minister of Education for Ontario had consented to supply this Board with the volume in use there, at cost. He also presented a revision of the regulations in regard to religious exercises in schools. The Board authorized that 1,000 copies of the Scripture Readings be furnished, and that such changes be made in the title and introductory pages of the book as may be suitable to its adaptation to use in the schools of Manitoba. The following are the regulations regarding religious teaching in the schools, as revised and adopted: Every school established and in operation under the authority of the Protestant jurisdiction of the Board of Education shall be opened and closed daily with prayer as follows: Opening—One or more of the forms of prayer printed on the cover of the authorized school register, or the volume of prescribed Scripture readings shall be used, always including the Lord's Prayer, repeated together by teacher and pupils. Closing—One or more of the forms of prayer provided as above. The Bible shall be used as a text-book in the Protestant schools of Manitoba. A supply for each school may be obtained by the trustees, otherwise each pupil from standard three upwards shall be required to provide himself with a Bible, in addition to his other text-books. The selections for reading shall be exclusively those contained in the volume of Scripture Readings authorized for use in the schools of the Province by the Protestant section of the Board of Education, and the trustees of each school shall provide a volume of these readings for the use of the teacher. The Scripture Lesson in each school shall follow the opening prayer, and shall occupy not more than fifteen minutes daily. Until notes and questions are provided under the authority of the Board, the readings shall not be accompanied by comment or explanation. The pupils of each school, from standard three upward, shall be taught to repeat from memory the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed; and one half-hour weekly may be devoted to this exercise, and such other instruction in manners and morals as may be practicable.