

We have received from the Willard Tract Depository, S. R. Briggs, Toronto, copies of the cheap editions of Dr. McKay's "Abundant Grace" (pp. 226, price 50 cents); and of that remarkable indictment of the predominant wickedness of the times—"The Trinity of Evil." (Cloth, 50 cents; paper, 30 cents.) We have only to reiterate our high approval of these books written upon the previous edition.

From the same House we have received an interesting illustrated quarto volume, with numerous maps, engravings and photographic portraits—"A Missionary Band." Price 50 cts. Its careful reading cannot fail to quicken sympathy with mission work by its record of the trials and triumphs of missionary life.

Stirring up the Spirit of God Within Us.

BY REV. E. B. SANFORD.

The introductory verses of Paul's second letter to Timothy give a beautiful illustration of the spirit of affection and courtesy with which words of admonition may be spoken by a friend. Reminding his "beloved son" of his great desire to see him once more, he touches the chords of memory by a tender allusion to the heritage that had come to him through the pious lives of his mother and grandmother, and then says: "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee."

This exhortation is especially appropriate to those who are engaged in teaching the Word. To "stir up" means properly to kindle again into a blaze the half-concealed coals under the ashes. As long as the fire remains thus hidden it can neither awaken into a flame the affections and purposes of the heart nor give warmth and light to others. The gift within us is a spiritual grace that needs the quickening influence of the divine life to reveal its strength and power. To be successful teachers there is not so much need of greater natural capacity as to have the head and heart glowing with the thought and feeling that has been stirred into a blaze by the breath of the Spirit. The teacher who studies the Scriptures seeking for the illumination that comes from above, and who, in closet hours, remembers at the throne of grace each scholar with his special need, will not toil in vain.

The soul must be refreshed by daily devotion in order that it may have strength and courage for its work. The fires upon the altar of consecration will burn low if they are not fanned unceasingly. "I can only say one thing," writes Elizabeth Fry, in the evening of her useful life, "since my heart was touched at seventeen years old, I believe I have never awakened from sleep, in sickness or in health, by day or by night, without my first waking thought being, how best I might serve the Lord."

There never was a time when the machinery and appliances of Sunday-school work were as

perfect as now, but there is no less need of the apostolic injunction to "stir up the will of God within us." Without loving, thoughtful effort and prayer on the part of teachers results will be meagre and disappointing. The field for service is wonderful in its opportunity, and demands the exercise of gifts that can become the possession of those whose hearts are kindled into a flame of spiritual power and desire through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.—*Pilgrim Teacher.*

Mistakes.

MAN is not a machine, and hence is liable to error, even when he is entirely informed as to what facts are or as to how they should be stated. If man were a machine the railroad employé would never misplace a switch, the engineer would never pull the wrong handle, the author would never say what he intended not to say. Nowhere is this fact more sensibly felt than in editorial work. Aiming to be correct, contributor or editor will say what is incorrect. An article prepared with care by a skilled hand will be found to contain a mistake that a boy will detect. It is mortifying, but it is and will be so as long as man is not a machine. The *Sunday School Times* recently made to its readers an instructive acknowledgment on this point. A page of writing was under examination in which its author felt that his reputation was involved. That page, when set up in type, passed under eleven readings by five skilled proof-readers, yet was printed with a glaring error in it—an error of statement—which ought to have been noted by any one of the five readers at any one of the eleven readings. So conscious is the old editor of this liability to error that his surprise is, not that so many mistakes are found in his own work and that of others, but so few; and yet he is deeply mortified at every instance of such imperfection in his own pages.

Profitless Discussions.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Sunday-school Journal*, who is evidently a discriminating person, says:—

"In almost every Bible class there is a member who is always tempting you to a long, profitless discussion. He has some hobby, some mystery of godliness which he has solved; or perhaps he has found some mistake of Moses, or Paul, or John. There will be times when you must fail to recognize his presence. Generally, it is well to give the time to teaching the truth, leaving the wrong to show itself by contrast. As Spurgeon says: 'If a crooked stick is before you, you need not explain how crooked it is. Lay a straight one down beside it, and the work is well done.' Long remarks on the number and turn of the crooks are not profitable. Lay the truth down beside error, and avoid long discussions."