

literary excellence, and well adapted for reading lessons. We suppose we must include in this remark an extract from the present writer's book on the Catacombs of Rome. The illustrations and mechanical execution of the books leave nothing to be desired. When we have an opportunity to examine the series more fully we shall have something more to say about it.

We have before us the Report of the XVIIth Provincial S. S. Convention, held in Brampton last October. A book of 160 pages, as full of instruction, Sunday suggestions and discussions, as an egg is full of meat. The addresses of Dr. Vincent, Prof. Sherwin, Rev. H. M. Parsons, J. Burton, J. C. Antliff, J. McEwen, Dr. Thomas, and others, will be found of great advantage to every Sunday-school worker. Send twenty cents to the Rev. J. McEwen, Toronto, for a copy.

We have also received from the New Church Board of Publication, a neatly printed Manual of Religious Instruction, containing, in simple words, Bible Stories, from Genesis to Revelation. Illustrative quotations from Biblical authorities are also freely given.

*The Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus.* By WASHINGTON IRVING. Illustrated. 8vo., pp. 325. Stratford Edition. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$1.75.

The Putnams were the original Publishers of Washington Irving, and they issue his works in several editions. One of the neatest and cheapest of these is the Stratford Edition. The three 8vo. volumes on Columbus were condensed by the author into this single one. Of this book Lord Jeffrey said: "It will supersede all other works on the subject, and never itself be superseded;" while the historian Prescott describes it as the "noblest monument to the memory of Columbus." Of the literary merit of this American classic it is superfluous to speak. Every school-boy should read this fascinating story.

## Once More.

### A WORD FOR THE DAYS OF PRAYER.

"Prayer, like Jonathan's bow, returns not empty. Never was faithful prayer lost at sea. No merchant trades with such certainty as the praying saint. Some prayers, indeed, have a longer voyage than others; but then return with the richer lading at last."—*Old Writer.*

WHEN Daguerre was working at his sun pictures the great difficulty was to "fix" them. The light would print the figure in the camera, but as soon as the tablet was withdrawn the picture would vanish. This is the failure in our efforts. We cannot "fix" the image of Jesus upon the souls under our care.

Our scholars, many of them, mean to be good while under the light we throw in upon them, but as soon as they leave us the impressions fade out. What then, is to be done? The power of the Holy Spirit alone can "fix" Christ's image upon the soul. Asking Him and trusting Him to do this will make much more of our work permanent.

Let every teacher be "endued with power from on high," and who shall measure the results? With their opportunity for impressing those upon whom impressions can be made, oracular as they may be to their scholars, with such truth as they have to teach, with the power of Omnipotence at the command of their faith, they ought right speedily to bring on the time when a nation shall be born to the Lord Christ in a single day.

Once more, then, we call upon ministers, Sunday-school teachers, and churches, to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the young of our charge. That Spirit inspired the word which we teach; and only through His direct enlightenment can any human being, be he infant or sage, get at the significance of God's utterances. This is the key to the position.

We ourselves cannot comprehend God's truth without Divine help, much less of ourselves teach it to others. The more certainly we are "filled with the Spirit," the surer are we of success.

Let us, then, "continue instant in prayer." The answer will come; "though it tarry, wait for it;" persevere, for in due season "ye shall reap, if ye faint not."