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THE SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN has been received with increased favor during the year, although there are still very many schools in which no copies are taken. It is encouraging to know that the patrons of the paper look with approval upon the efforts made to provide such a publication, and we bespeak largely increased orders for the coming year—promising, on our part, to make the paper more attractive than ever to our young folks.

GOLDEN HOURS, started in January last, will be continued; but as an entirely distinct publication. In reading matter and illustrations it will be quite different from the SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN, so that, if desired, the two papers may be given out to the same scholar alternately—thus forming a fortnightly issue.

PLEASE NOTE!

Superintendents and teachers will oblige us much by sending in their orders for 1879 as early as possible, so that we may know how many copies to print of the January number.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

JOSEPH COOK is now lecturing with marked success in New York city.

THE pope has sent ten Jesuits to Central Africa, to evangelize the countries traversed by Stanley and Livingstone. The mission will cost \$40,000 and the missionaries will take with them 500 porters, servants, etc., who will be unarmed.

DR. HOWARD CROSBY's crusade in New York, against the rum-power, has resulted in the closing of 1739 grogeries in one year. The Doctor also says one of the results of his work has been "the vertebraing of officers and judges," who were weak-backed before. This good work is not yet finished.

MR. SPURGEON this year completes the twenty-fifth of his pastorate, and his congregation and friends have determined to celebrate the occasion by presenting him with a worthy testimonial. The inten-

tion is to raise a very large sum of money by the familiar agency of a bazaar.

A LATE despatch from Winnipeg informs us that "Louis Riel is reported to be in Pembina, where he has been about a week, though his presence there is known to very few. . . . His intentions have not yet been ascertained." His intentions! We really do not feel in the slightest degree anxious about what "his intentions" may be. Louis Riel was an accidental notoriety—the hero of a fizzle—and we hope we shall hear no more of him.

By another of those artful evasions of ecclesiastical law, for which Dean Stanley, in his broad charity, is so noted, Principal Tallach, a Presbyterian, has been preaching in Westminster Abbey. His theme was "A personal Christ the central fact of the Gospel, and the source of Christian enthusiasm." A good theme, and well treated; but the preacher could not occupy the pulpit, and delivered his sermon from the lectern.

THE ministers of a town in New York State, have agreed as follows concerning funeral occasions: First—That burial services be limited, so far as practicable, to Scripture reading, singing and prayer. Second—That we deprecate the appointment of funeral services for Sunday. Third—That we also deprecate the public exposure of remains. Fourth—That before the arrangements are made as to time and place of burial service, the convenience of the officiating clergyman should be consulted.

THE London *Spectator* has been discussing in its columns the subject "Will progress diminish joy?" The positive and negative aspects are both given. One writer maintains that the sorrows of the world are brought to us by the telegraph and press, and that science is directly setting towards despair—that joy is seriously threatened. The other maintains that the sufferings of people far away will not affect our gladness disastrously, and that even now, science is evincing signs of returning to the faith in the supernatural and Divine. It is a big question.

THE *Christian Union* lately had a letter from Edwin Booth, the great tragedian, containing rather disparaging statements of the theatre, as generally conducted. Mr. Booth does not sanction his wife's attendance at any play until he has satisfied himself as to the character of the play and players. The theatre, in his estimation, cannot be healthy and helpful to sound morals, so long as it is controlled by speculators. These gentlemen will place on the stage "immoral gimcracks." Words like these, from such a source, are worth considering. Did not Macready leave the stage because of its general immoral tendency?

HARPER'S WEEKLY says it is not a "waste of time" to read the periodical literature of the day, and argues that there is in the newspapers of the present time some of the best writing of which men are capable. Public men wish their thoughts to be brought quickly before the people, and resort to the newspapers and magazines, so that whatever is best is likely to be found there. It is true. And if people will refuse the trifling papers of which there are so many, and take those which have conscience and character, they will not need to complain of intellectual or moral deterioration. Providence makes it our duty to choose our

books, papers and associates. If we take the bad instead of the good it is our own fault and misfortune.

What a sight this is! Johnson, *vs.* Glen, in the Court of Chancery. The English church at Oshawa was vacant. The appointment of the incumbent lay in the hands of the Bishop, after consultation with the churchwardens and lay representatives of the parish. The Oshawa vestry submitted the name of a Rev. Mr. Fortin, of Sorel. The Bishop appointed the Rev. C. C. Johnson. The Oshawa officials locked the doors against the Bishop's nominee, and now he sues for the keys of the closed doors. Some interesting developments will be made by the trial. Both parties are determined—the Oshawa churchmen, not to have Mr. Johnson, the Bishop, that they shall have no other than Johnson. The Bishop, speaking with some dignity, maintains that the people have no right to suggest a name to him, but he has the right to suggest a name to them. The fuss must end some way; but how, whether on the side of popular rights or episcopal domination, no one can tell. Meanwhile, we are spectators.

LAST week we expressed our opinion that the officials of the British Government would either have to deal with the Afghan tribes singly, or to appoint a ruler and sustain his government. The latter alternative would have been the most expeditious way of dealing with the matter; but perhaps it would not have been the way most conducive to British aggrandisement. We find by later despatches that the British officials on the field of action have condescended to treat not only with tribes but with individuals, and have been distributing British gold among them at the rate of six dollars to each male and female. This, taken in connection with the proclamation of the Commander-in-chief of the British forces to the effect that "now the Ameer had run away, the inhabitants of Afghanistan had no one to look to but the Empress of India," indicates that Afghanistan is henceforward to be regarded as a British province. Perhaps this will be "all for the best." Anyway, it will be in keeping with Britain's traditional policy in her dealings with Asiatic territory. The Emperor of Russia will not interfere; he has "other fish to fry."

IT gives us sincere pleasure to learn that the young firm of Messrs Gordon & Helliwell have been awarded the first prize of two hundred dollars for their plans of the new buildings of Queen's College. This pleasure is enhanced as we learn that these gentlemen have been entrusted with the superintendence of the works. Mr. Gordon commenced business on his own account, when he was honoured by the building committee of the Toronto Central Presbyterian Church with their unanimous appointment of him as their architect. Such was the confidence of these gentlemen that they appointed him architect before the plans of the new church had been drawn. Of course, Mr. Gordon's eminent talent and Christian character were well known and appreciated, and in fact his appointment is itself an evident proof of such appreciation. The buildings of the Central Church speak for themselves, and do much credit to the talent and ability of the young architect. We are sure that Messrs. Gordon & Helliwell will add largely to their reputation and influence by the manner in which they will discharge the important trust that has been committed into their hands by the Trustees of Queen's College.