# American Presbyterian and Genesee Evangelist.

## The Hamily Circle.

The Year's End.

So grows the rising year, and so declines By months, weeks, days, unto its peaceful end; Even as by slow and ever-varying signs,

Up to the crown of life, and thence descend.

Great Father, who of every one takest care, From him on whom full ninety years are piled To the young babe, just taught to lisp a prayer About the "gentle Jesus, meek and mild," Who children loves, being once Himself a

O make us day by day like Him to grow; More pure and good, more dutiful and meek Because He loves those who obey Him so; Because His love is the best thing to seek, Because without His love all loves are weak-

All earthly joys are miserable and poor, All earthly goodness quickly droops and dies, Like rootless flowers you plant in gardens—sure That they will flourish—till in midday skies The sun burns, and they fade before your

O God, who art alone the life and light Of this strange world to which as babes we

Keep Thou us always children in Thy sight; Guide us from year to year, through shine and And at our year's end, Father, take us home. -Miss Muloch, in Out Year.

#### SCENES AT A MISSION SCHOOL.

JOHN PENFIELD was already there with four other gentlemen and ladies. He came to meet them-" If our new helpers are such magnets as they appear to be to-day, we shall have to enlarge our quarters. But, Richard, let us open the school at once, without waiting for Mr. White, or some of our new visitors will leave us. We must coax them to stay if possible." Accordingly, Richard offered a very brief, earnest prayer for divine aid, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, which the teachers and two or three of the scholars who had been longest in the school, joined him in repeating. The other scholars stared at each other and at the ladies and gentlemen, and occasionally dropped observations in an audible voice, to the effect that they had heard enough of that, and would like a story by way of change. After prayer, Richard said, "Now we will

Oh, do not be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend! 1.1.1

This song, with its animated chorus, was a favorite with the rough little creatures, who had altogether a clearer idea about soldiers and fighting than about the more peaceful fruits of righteousness, and many of them had caught the chorus and were able to join in it, with more vigor than harmony, however. But today, a new voice took up the simple, familiar words, and gave them new meaning and beauty The rare beauty of Alice Leighton's voice had charmed many hearts before, but it had never produced a more remarkable effect than on herhalf-savage audience that day. As her clear, sweet, expressive notes rang out, the confused babble which the voice of prayer could not hush ceased entirely, and the children gathered nearer her with open-mouthed but silent admiration, while the older members of Miss Pidge's train of followers, who were noisily retreating, turned back, fascinated by the eloquent voice. Who can tell what message of hope the simple words may have carried into the depths of some hitherto despairing heart, nerving it perhaps to struggle after the friendship of that Jesus before whom they were to School," seemed marvellously adapted, with voice alone in the song, when they saw the the loving invitation. effect it was producing, and only suffered their own to come in on the chorus. When the day's experience in a Mission-school -From verses were all sung, the audience seemed at Margaret at Home. Published by Randolph. once to recover their power of utterance, and the shouting, stamping, and clapping was so deafening that poor Miss Pidge in her retreat in the remotest corner of the room, was forced to withdraw her hands from their previous the subtle influence of music.

But at last a degree of quiet was restored. earth after He was risen, tells us so. New trouble, however, soon arose in connec-

Armor," calls the short dagger of ejaculatory | glory .- Our Year. prayer, to be used when thou canst not draw out the long sword of a formal prayer." Her experience in the school at Watson's Woods stood her in good stead here. She had learnd the way to a child's heart; and although at first her most earnest effort awakened no

propriety. Just as Margaret was hoping that she had secured the ear of her class, she and they were much disturbed by a shout from one of Alice Leighton's boys to her girls, "Ho! you gals—we've got the singing-woman, and she's the prettiest, too!" This roused the chivalry of the child-nature, and the leader among Miss Huntington's scholars Through childhood, youth, our solemn steps squealed in response to the taunt, "Ours has we bend got on the best clothes, any way!" and this was the signal for a general discussion of the comparative merits of the whole party, from which it was difficult to bring them back to the more important matters in which their teachers were trying to interest them. At one time there seemed danger that the zealous controversy might end in a hand to hand fight, but Mr. White, the superintendent, interfered skillfully, first threatening them with the loss of the promised song from the lady, and then telling them a lively instructive story to bring them good natured again.

> THE SONG. Her song was one which she had found

among the hymns of "Father Faber," whose fervor is unsurpassed by any modern hymnist. The music was her own composition. sweet and harmonious, but chiefly remarkahle for giving clear, emphatic utterance to the quaint pathos of the simple words.

The True Shepherd. "I was wandering and weary, When my Saviour came unto me; For the ways of sin grew weary,
And the world had ceased to woo me;
And I thought I heard Him say.
As He came along his way, O silly souls! come near me; My sheep should never fear me; I am the Shepherd true!!

"At first I would not hearken, And put off till the morrow But life began to darken, And I was sick with sorrow; And I thought I heard Him say, As He came along His way,

O silly souls! come near me;
My sheep should never fear me;
I am the Shepherd true!

"At last I stopped to listen; His voice could not deceive me;
I saw His kind eyes glisten,
So anxious to relieve me;
And I thought I heard Him say, As He came along His way,
O silly souls! come near me;
My sheep should never fear me;
I am the Shepherd true!,

"He took me on His shoulder, And tenderly He kissed me; He bade my love be bolder, And said how HE HAD MISSED ME; As He went along His way, O silly souls come near me: My sheep should never fear me; I am the Shepherd true!

Strange gladness seemed to move Him Whenever I did better;
And He coaxed me so to love Him,
As if He was my debtor; And I always heard Him say, As He went along His way,
O silly souls come near My sheep should never fear me; I am the Shepherd true!'

"I thought His love would weaken As more and more He knew me; But it burneth like a beacon,
And its light and heat go through me; As He goes along His way, 'O silly souls come near me; My sheep should never fear me; I am the Shepherd true!

"Let us do, then, dearest brothers,
What will best and longest please us;
Follow not the ways of others, But trust ourselves to Jesus! We shall ever hear Him say,

As He goes along His way,

O silly souls come near me;

My sheep should never fear me;

I am the Shepherd true!"

This hymn, written for a London "Ragged stand when the conflict was ended? A song its pleading refrain, to the needs of these may linger long after a sermon has faded poor uncared-for wanderers, and they pressed utterly away. The other singers left Alice's nearer the singer, fearing to lose a word of And with this song ended our friend's first

### LESSONS OF THE SEASON.

Snow newly fallen is perhaps the whitest office and apply them to her ears. Margaret's thing in the world. What a dazzle of brightquick eye had previously discovered evidence ness, and whiteness, and exquisite purity that the melting mood was possible even to meets our eyes when we come down stairs of the sharp, black eyes of Miss Pidge, under a morning, and see it spread like a garment over field, and road, and garden, hiding eve-The applause increased rather than dimin- ry thing dirty and ugly, and making whole ished, "Keep a singing!" "Ongcore!" "Go earth glistening and beautiful! The "raiment ahead!" "Let's have another!" were the cries white as snow," that we read of in the Bible, on all sides. After a little talk with Miss Leigh- is the nearest idea we can form of the appearton, who was somewhat discomfited by the tur- ance of those who are in heaven after the rebulent enthusiasm she had excited, Mr. Love- surrection. And as there must be few chilland called the stormy company to order, and dren who read this book who have never assured them that if they would be very quiet heard of death, or known any one who has and attentive during lesson-time, the lady died-some friend, or relative, or little playwould sing them another song when school fellow gone away to be seen no more on earth was over. This announcement was received | -- so perhaps, most of you will have thought with a still more violent burst of applause, at times (particularly now, when birds, in-mingled with objections from some to any sects, and flowers are dying around us) of this postponement of this enjoyment, and sugges- Death which we hear talked of, and are told tions from others as to what the promised must come to us as it does to all these. What song should be. Several popular melodies it is, or how it feels, we do not know; but were mentioned which were not included in that it is nothing to be afraid of we are cer-Miss Leighton's extensive repertoire, to say tain, because the Lord Jesus Christ, who nothing of the unsuitableness for the day, died and rose again, and walked about on

Of this resurrection from the dead, which tion with the classification of the new comers. we believe in, because He rose first, and pro-The popularity of the songstress awakened mised to us that we should rise also—how, or the determination of quite too many to secure | when, or in what form we shall be raised her for their teacher, while strenuous objec- we can not tell; but that God will make all tions were made by the three boys who were the dead in Christ alive again, we are as sure assigned to Miss Pidge, whose soul had been as that, looking out this dreary winter day, so fired by what she had seen and heard, we know that He both can and will make that, in her own expressive language, she the black bare trees green again, the wheat "fairly ached to try her hand on these ram- grow up out of the poor little withered seeds Margaret finally found herself seated with and the ugly half-dead chrysalis that hides five girls about her, so filthy in person and in itself in a corner of the window-sill burst out clothing, so stolid in expression, and so utterly into a perfect butterfly. If He forgets not devoid of any appearance of interest in her, one of these small creatures, giving to each or even of curiosity in regard to what she in its order the life, or succession of lives, that might say and do, that her heart sickened with despair. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Here was dies is revived again in its own form or in work enough at hand surely, and after a brief another, we know that He will never forget struggle Margaret undertook the task hear- us, but will, in His own good time and way, tily, having first stabbed her despair with prepare for us a new life and a new body what grand old Gurnall, in his "Christian in which to do His work and live to His

# Miscellaneous.

### BIBLE CLASS INSTRUCTION.

couraging them to do the same. He wrote compels them to drink for fear of seeming couraging them to do the same. He wrote no books; but one of his scholars and admirers composed several, chiefly made up of the substance of these wayside conversations of his teacher and his disciples. What the of his teacher and his disciples. What the of his teacher and his disciples. What the or pass a guard-house where soldiers are the substance of these wayside conversations of his teacher and his disciples. What the influence of that plain and awkward man has been in morals and politics, and even religion, the names of Socrates and his follower, Plato, sufficiently suggest. From this habit of the eminently wise and good man of Athens, the mode of instruction by questions and answers has acquired the name of the Socratic method.

A greater than Socrates was also very fond of this style of teaching. He showed this tendency at an early period of his life. When his parents missed him at Jerusalem, at twelve years of age, at the end of their subscribers are guard-house where soldiers are not tied by their thumbs to poets, or other drunkeiness. Is a guard-house where soldiers are not tied by their thumbs to poets, or other wise being punished for drunkeiness. Is a town entered or a city taken, the straggling soldiers rush to every rum-hole and fill their canteens with what liquor they an find, and drunkenness. When the paymaster comes, the men, careless of consections, buy wretched liquor at fabilious prices, and give themselves up to their beastly appetite for drink. We have known of instances of five dollars being paid for canteenits of whisky.

THE American Sunday-School Union and Indiana Sunday

at twelve years of age, at the end of their dollars being paid for centeenius of whisky, three days' search for him throughout the and as much or more for bottle als; and this city, they found him where, probably, he had by men who left home temperate and rebeen most of the time, in the temple, surrounded by venerable, gray-headed doctors of the law; and, as the Evangelist tells us, he was hearing their questions and answers, and asking them questions, also, which, possibly, went not a little beyond even their

sibly, went not a little beyond even their depth.

Pictures of this scene are quite common. An old one, by a great master, sets the young Nazarene upon a sort of high stool in the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, find centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, find centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where they would contain the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, instances where the containing influences and privates that sumptuary laws were deemed necessary by the restraining influences of home, though the letters and news-papers which go to our camps by tons' weight daily, keep our soldiers from harm in many instances. the centre of the solemn-looking rabbis, finely contrasting his artless child-face with their time-furrowed, dark-browed counternances. He has no book to help his part of nances. He has no book to help his part of the discussions, for the needed none; they the discussions, for the needed none; they the discussions has brought almost all the nonder-

their time-turrowed, dark-proved none, leading should enhance the has no book to help his part of the discussions. For the needed none, they discussions, for the needed none, they discussions for the needed none, they discussions for the needed none, they do not have brought almost all the ponderous, age-stained volumes of the temple library to their assistance.

They were studying the Scriptures in an original and very impressive kind of Bibleciass. It is the purpose of this paper to mention some of the advantages of this conversational mode of religious study, as compared with the more formal lecture.

"Preaching the gospel, in the sermon, is the permanent, divinely-ordered agency of instruction in the church. It cannot be substituted or superseded by another method, however good. This is a settled law of the new dispensation which no wise man yill wish to remove out of its place. Still, it is true that pulpit discourse labors under some drawbacks which the conversational method avoids; while it has powers and capabilities which are exclusively its own. Thus,—

The preacher cannot always be sure that he is fairly understood. He often finds him self querying whether, at some point, he ought not to supply another proof or illustration. He cannot return upon his track, going back to clear up an idea which, possibly, was not happily part. Now and them, he catches the glimpse of an eye, among his auditors, which seems to say, "It would like to sak a question about this matter, if it were proper." And the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question and the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question and the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question and the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question and the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question and the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question and the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question and the p were proper." And the preacher would give quite as much to know just what that question is, that he might answer it while the topic is fresh and arresting. People talk, the topic is fresh and arresting. sometimes, as if the minister was glad to be intrenched in his pulpit, beyond the danger of interruption, where he can be the sole speaker, saying what he chooses without being called to account. The fact, on the contrary, is, that, were it possible, he would value much the help to his discoursings which would come from, now and then, a pertinent inquiry along the route of his arguments and explanations. Possibly he might be a little more careful in his statements, and clear in his definitions, were he expecting this matter, at interest parable in the task of investigating this matter, at interest parable in the suddier needs by ides his ration—such as tobacco pipes, to e small articles of clothing, stationery, &c.—can easily be kept to the form and upwards, the interest parable in Gold. n18 sm and upwards, the interest parable in Gold. n18 sm and upwards, the interest parable in Gold. n18 sm thus all apology for the parameters are assily be kept to the form and upwards, the interest parable in Gold. n18 sm and upwards, the interest parable in Gold. n18 sm thus all apology for the parameters of the sut ler would be destroyed. We hope that the friends of Temperance me good morals will, either through the alway or organized channels of the Sanitary Or mission, or otherwise, address themselves of the task of investigating this matter, at procuring for it that attention from Gov annent which its importance demands.

A Y E R'S

ing this. On the other side, were the audience calculating upon this privilege of catechising their minister, during the sermon or at its close, perhaps they would be more wakeful in their attention to what is said, or, if not dozing and nodding, perhaps their minds would not be wandering so widely, like the fool's eyes, to the ends of the earth. Theological and medical lectures have a stimulus,

importance demands.

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in this respect, which the pupil lacks. in this respect, which the pupil lacks.

Sermons, again, are not so well fitted for continuous expositions of Scripture as is the between PHILADELPHIA PPITTSBURG, connecting direct Parks and price of this road is now equal to any in the country Three T continuous expositions of Scripture as is the Socratic method of study. Expounding the Bible has gone out of common practice in the pulpit, because of the inherent difficulty, of conducting the exercise in that manner satisfactorily. Something more than simply a hearing is wanted. Asking and answering arrestions are indispensed by the heat proces. questions are indispensable to the best prosecution of this examination of the Word of God. The pulpit needs to be aided in some systematic way in the business of Scripture

teaching. The Sabbath school is a valuable ally; but it does not meet the whole necessity. The Bible-class, in the pastor's hands, when possible, is the best supply of this demand. A much stronger argument could be made for giving up the Sabbath afternoon to such a service than for surrendering it to Express Train leaves Pittsburg at Express Train "Express Train leaves "Express Train the Sabbath school. Why should the holy book of Christendom

be the only religious cracle in the world Harrisburg which is not profoundly studied by the mass of the people? A revival of Bibliolatry is not what is needed; there is little danger of this in these days of Oxford essays and naturalistic rationalism. But an intelligent zeal in Bible study, on its own independent mer-its, is a vital demand of the times. All the more is this incumbent on any who may have eanings towards skepticism concerning the truth as it is in Jesus. To be a skeptic, an infidel, at second-hand, is unworthy a being claiming to possess a rational spirit. Yet inety-nine of every hundred of these have borrowed their infidelity from an on dit.-Thayer's Home Monthly.

### DRUNKENNESS IN THE ARMY.

WE are not aware that any effort has been uccessfully made by the Temperance Socieies to collect statistics of the spread of drunkenness in the army, but the matter is one of prime importance and should be attended to. Mr. Gough was recently announced to lecture on this topic at Cooper Institute; but, on taking the stand, he frankly confessed that he had no data for a connected argument, and should, therefore, confine himself to the discussion of intemperance generally. It may fairly be said that one alf of the young officers and men of our volunteer service are becoming addicted to the habit of using intoxicating liquors. We shrink from an estimate of the proportion of those who become confirmed drunkards before the expiration of their term of enlistment, but it will be fearfully great. Officers of all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, have fallen victims to their appetites, by scores upon scores, and among the number are many of the highest promise. Generals intelligent response, and their attention as soon as secured strayed farther away than before, yet she knew each poor, misused body before her held a child's heart, and by God's grace she meant to find it.

There were constant outbreaks all around her. There was no reverence for time nor place; and anything which happened to occur to the restless minds of these untrained children, was uttered at once without regard to the way of asking them questions and entrained children.

The many of the lightest promises the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influence of drink, colonels have ridden unsteadily along the lines of battle under the influe

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years, which we were unable to cure until we tried your Sarsaparilla. She has been well for some months." From Mrs. Jane E. Rice, a well-known and much-esteemed lady of Dennisville, Cape May Co., N.J. "My daughter has suffered for a year past with a scrofulous eruption, which was very troublesome. Nothing afforded any relief until we tried your Sarsaparilla, which soon completely cured her." From Charles P. Gage, Esq., of the widely-known Gage, Murray & Co., manufacturers of enamelled papers in Nashua, N. H.
"I had for several years a very troublesome humor in my face, which grew constantly worse until it dis-

in my face, which grew constantly worse until it dis-figured my features and became an intolerable afflic-tion. I tried almost every thing a man could of both advice and medicine; but without any relief whatever, until I took your Sarsaparilla. It immediately made my face worse, as you told me it might for a time: but in a few weeks the new skin began to form under the blotches, and continued until my face is as smooth as any body's, and I am without any symptoms of the disease that I know of. I enjoy perfect health, and without a doubt owe it to your Sarsaparilla."

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From Dr. Robt. Sawin, Houston St., New York. "Dr. Aver. I seldom fail to remove Eruptions and Scrofulous Sores by the persevering use of your Sarsaparilla, and I have just now cured an attack of Malignant Erysipelas with it. No alterative we possess equals the Sarsaparilla you have supplied to

the profession as well as to the people."

From J. E. Johnston, Esq., Wakeman, Ohio.

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and excites the wonder of all."

From Hon. Henry Monro, M. P., of Newcastle,
C. W., a leading member of the Canadian Parliament.

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From Harvey Sickler, Esq., the able editor of the Tunkhannock Democrat, Pennsylvania.

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