

Work and Workers

THE good wishes of a host of Americans will accompany Professor George Adam Smith to his new position as Principal of The University at Aberdeen, Scotland. This position is filled by royal appointment. The special significance of the present appointment lies in the fact that no minister of the Free Church has ever before been called to the principalship of either of the four universities in Scotland, such positions heretofore having been held by members of the Established Church (Presbyterian). During the present academic year Dr. Smith will continue his Old Testament teaching in the Free Church College, Glasgow, concurrently with the administration of the University at Aberdeen, one hundred and thirteen miles away. While the principal's duties will leave no time for teaching, it is to be hoped that Dr. Smith's valuable Old Testament scholarship will not be wholly laid aside from active service. This we should seriously deprecate, scarcely regarding the honor of the principalship, great as it is, as sufficient compensation for the cessation of that rich series of volumes illuminating the Old Testament, which all interpreters now regard as indispensable.

REV. ROBERT LAW, M.A., minister of Lauriston Place United Free Church, Edinburgh, has succeeded Professor H. A. A. Kennedy, in the chair of New Testament at Knox College, Toronto. Professor Kennedy, it will be remembered, has returned to Edinburgh, to the professorship left vacant by the death of Marcus Dods. Professor Law is already known in America through his recent book, *The Tests of Life*, a study of the First Epistle of John.

FREDERIC GEORGE KENYON has been appointed principal librarian of the British Museum, to succeed Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, retired. Mr. Kenyon is perhaps best known for his work on Greek papyri, for he has edited many important literary texts, and his *Palaeography of Greek Papyri* was the first systematic treatise on the subject. He is better known to biblical students as the author of *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts* (1895), and his excellent *Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament* (1901).

REV. BENJAMIN S. WINCHESTER, D.D., pastor of the Congregational Church of Winnetka, Ill., has been elected to the office of educational



GEORGE ADAM SMITH
Principal of the University of Aberdeen

secretary of the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, and will take up his new work in Boston on January 1. Dr. Winchester is a graduate of Williams College and Chicago Theological Seminary. From the latter institution he was appointed fellow and studied for two years at the University of Halle. Then for a time he was professor at Whitman College in the state of Washington, but later returned to the ministry in Chicago and vicinity. During his pastorate at Winnetka he transformed the Congregational Sunday school into a thoroughly graded school, working out original ideas and methods. The skill, experience, and success of this achievement led to his selection for the leadership of the Sunday schools of the entire denomination. The choice is an excellent one, and guarantees that the Congregational Sunday schools will continue to have wise, progressive, and efficient guidance. It is the purpose of the society to promote the newer ideals and methods of Sunday-school work and to publish graded courses of study along the newer lines as rapidly as they can be prepared. The Congregational denomination, through Dr. A. E. Dunning and others, has been foremost in the movement for Sunday-school progress, and the appointment of Dr. Winchester to the educational secretaryship gives assurance that this advance position is to be maintained.

THE next (seventh) General Convention of the Religious Education Association is to be held in Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, March 8, 9, and 10, 1910. The main sessions will be held in the Ryman Auditorium, seating six thousand. A strong local committee is making elaborate preparations for the convention, which promises to be large and important. This will be the first of the annual meetings to be held in the South, and a special interest attaches to its welcome there. Chancellor Kirkland, of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, is the chairman of the local committee. (Requests for reservations may be sent to Rev. Jesse L. Cuninggim, Nashville, Tenn.) Other important southern conventions, ministerial and educational, are to be merged into this convention of the Religious Education Association, making it one of the great events for church and school in the United States during the coming year.

The general theme of the meeting will be "The Church and Education." The three evening sessions will have the specific topics: (1) "The Church Educating Itself," upon which addresses will be given by Professor George A. Coe, Ph.D., formerly of Northwestern University, now of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City, who is president of the R. E. A. for the present year; and by President W. H. P. Faunce, D.D., of Brown University; President W. D. Mackenzie, D.D., of Hartford Theo-

logical Seminary; and Professor H. L. Willett, D.D., of the University of Chicago. (2) "The Church Inspiring the Local Educational Forces," upon which addresses will be given by Bishop Hendrix, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, President Swain of Swarthmore College, and others. (3) "The Church Christianizing National and International Ideals," upon which addresses will be given by President Moffatt, Dean Tillett, and others. At the general session on Thursday morning the Annual Survey of Progress in Moral and Religious Education will be given by Chancellor Kirkland, with the specific subject: "Problems and Progress of Religious Education in the South." He will be followed by Professor Bruce R. Payne, of the University of Virginia, who will present: "The Next Step Forward."

The departmental programmes will be many, varied, and valuable as always. The Council will discuss "The Educational Qualifications of Ministers and Church Workers," with sessions on Tuesday morning and afternoon, Wednesday morning, and Thursday afternoon.

THE Ann Arbor School of Religion announces forty-one courses of biblical and religious study, offered by twenty-two instructors, most of them members of the University of Michigan faculties. The organization is made up of representatives of nine denominations and of the Students' Christian Association. The courses deal with the Old and New Testaments, history of religion, practical Christianity, and missions.

THE GRADED SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE question of material for the graded Sunday school has become the vital issue with all of the great denominational publishing houses. No one doubts that the newer educational ideals are fast taking hold of those who are engaged in Sunday-school teaching. It will soon be no longer a question whether graded lessons should be used, but which of the various series of graded lessons published, or which volumes from a series, will bring the best results. The pamphlets issued simultaneously by several of the large denominational houses containing lessons prepared upon the basis of the selections made by the International Lesson Committee, show marked advance over the old uniform-lesson system. The lessons will no doubt call forth considerable criticism from pedagogical and biblical experts, but no one will deny that the step taken is in the right direction, and that the future will bring improvements in methods and material.

There has been great hesitancy on the part of the publication societies in the matter of the production of these lessons, because of the feeling that

the Sunday-school world was not ready for this advance step and that there would be a large investment of funds with no adequate returns. This attitude, however, has its best answer in the fact that private publishing houses are considering it worth while to publish graded textbooks.

The latest announcements of the Bible-Study Publishing Company of Boston, which has for some years published the Bible-Study Union Lessons, present a scheme for a fully graded course of lessons covering some very interesting topics. The general characteristics of the new series are described as follows: (1) A close and careful adaptation of the lesson material and methods of study to the varying capacities of childhood, boyhood and girlhood, adolescence, and adult age, so as best to meet the religious and moral needs, and develop the possibilities, of each successive period; (2) a study of the Bible by the aid of methods that have proved most effective in awakening and holding the interest of young people; (3) a supplementing of the Bible by such other material from nature-study, Christian history, literature, biography, missions, etc., as will best promote religious and moral development; (4) a practical application of the teachings of the Bible to the needs and conditions of modern life, with the aim of cultivating social as well as individual morality; (5) a constant endeavor to inspire and direct the pupils in giving personal and practical expression to moral and religious truth.

The announcements indicate that one volume for each grade will be ready within the present school year. We are glad to see that one of the courses definitely announced attempts to cover the field of missions under the title, "The Conquering Christ," and that another course deals with "Heroes of the Faith," many of whom are extra-biblical.

This series is as yet the only one which promises results comparable with those secured by the graded textbooks published by the University of Chicago Press. It is to be hoped that the publication of textbooks such as these two series present, will continue to raise the standard, so that the market need not be flooded with inferior material. The graded system will be no better than any other unless the actual material put into the hands of teachers and pupils is of a high class. We welcome this new graded series of the Bible-Study Union and hope for the most hearty and cordial co-operation and mutual helpfulness on the part of all who are interested in the publication of lessons for the graded Sunday school.