LARGEST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

A Visit to the Great Institution at Stockport, England.

Undenominational, But Its Doors Are Closed to Catholics, Jews and Unitarians—Its History.

STOCKPORT, England, Aug. 19, 1894.—On Sunday, August 12, I visited the Stockport Sunday school (said to be the largest not only in England but in the world). Wending my way in the direction pointed out, I soon experienced the spot. The first sight of the building impressed my mind that it was a mill of some kind, upon inquiry, however, I obtained the information that it was the school edifice I was in search of. Being directed to the proper entrance I was soon ushered into the committee room and introduced to W. H. Leigh, Esq., the general secretary, who I learned, nearly two years ago, at his father's decease, had succeeded him in that prominent position. This gentleman took pleasure in showing me through the building, and furnished full information concerning the working of the school. We spent the hours together. The building contains four stories and is situated in an elevated position on Wellington street. There are nearly 100 rooms in it. The main room is half an acre in size, and holds over 2,000 people, and is used for jubilees, anniversaries, Sunday evening service (once a month), and for mass purposes. For adult classes two minor classes there are two north and two south rooms; for first and second classes the same number of rooms. On the first floor there are nine rooms for boys and, on the second floor, ten rooms for girls, three libraries, one library room (where track and a few cheap books are sold), one committee room, one inspector's room, one librarian's room and one for the junior. At present there are fifty-seven classes in the school. The general library contains 2,500 books, the teachers' library 2,000, and the first and second class library 2,000. The latter is composed mostly of magazines. On the walls of the committee room can be seen elegant oil paintings and photo-engravings of distinguished men who have taken a very active part in the school, some of whom were in service for half a century or more. Prominent amongst the oil paintings is Mr. Joseph Mayer, who was connected with the school from 1793 until his death, January 25, 1857.

Attached to the school is a small building erected expressly for an infant department, to which all under five years of age are admitted. About 200 babes are enrolled.

The sanitary arrangements are the most complete to be found in any portion of England. During the time school is in session, apparatus is in working order which takes off (by water) every fifteen minutes all impure matter. It is built of glazed brick and was erected last year at a cost of £1,000.

Adjacent to the town are four branch schools belonging to the Stockport Sunday school. Last year's annual report gives the number of teachers and scholars as follows: Stockport Sunday school, 2,501; Heaton Mersey, 224; Brinnaway, 321; Lancashire Hill, 436; Heaviley, 319; total, 3,857.

The officers of the school consist of general inspector and assistant, treasurer and assistant, general secretary, librarian and assistant, two auditors, committee of eighteen members, forty visitors (superintendents of different departments), thirty-one trustees, and a finance committee of fifteen. The school hours are from 9 to 12 and from 2 to 4. The exercises consist of singing, prayer, short addresses, Bible and writing lesson, etc. Once a month the majority of the classes, shortly after 10 a.m., march to different places of worship. The day I was present thirty-five classes left the school for that purpose. One Sunday evening each month is set apart for service in the main room for all members of the school, parents and friends. Occasionally in the large room tea parties for parents and members of the schools are held. At the last there were 1,400 present and two nights previous 1,100 were seated. There is a sick and burial society connected with the school.

The school is non-sectarian, and admits children of all denominations excepting Catholic, Jew and Unitarian. T. W. Wetherell, a prominent resident of New York, and who is greatly interested in Sunday schools, makes a yearly visit to Stockport, and remains for a few weeks for the purpose of visiting the school. A large photo-engraving of this gentleman can be seen in the committee room.

Looking over the school's registry (as I noticed the following: "June, 1836, No. 67,180, Ephraim Cladston, aged 5 years." Mr. Cladston is junior for the school. He is now 61 years of age.

The finances of the school are kept up by annual subscriptions from the public, collections at annual sermons and monthly meetings, rents, profits from books and stationery sale, etc.

I registered my name before leaving Salt Lake City. The secretary invited me to come some Sabbath and address the adult scholars.

A brief history of the Stockport Sunday school is as follows: Mr. Robert Raikes commenced the first Sunday school in Gloucester, England, in 1780. The report of Mr. Raikes's success having reached Stockport, it established a few persons interested in the welfare of the youth to follow in the footsteps of the Gloucester Sunday school philosopher, and they resolved to do likewise. A town committee, under the auspices of the clergy and ministers of various denominations, was formed, which established seven schools, of which one, now known as the Hanover Sunday school, was one. For nine years it was known as a town's school, under control and maintained by that committee. Then a misunderstanding which could not be cleared up, and it was called the Methodist Sunday school. During the first twenty years (up to the time of the erection of the new building) the teachers were paid for their services, the first wages were 1s 6d each week. In the year 1816 the number of scholars having greatly increased, the plan was conceived of erecting one large Sunday school, undenominational and without distinction of sect or party. Subscriptions were solicited for this purpose. Alas, in 1819 the foundation stone was laid. In 1820 the building was finished and opened.

The secretary presented me with several pamphlets showing the progress of the school, amongst which was one giving the minutes of the proceedings at the grand jubilee, held June, 1875, in commemoration of laying the foundation stone of the Stockport Sunday school, Saturday, June 12, 1819; also proceedings of the anniversary service of the school, held in November, 1884.

R. ATTON.

A CHARMED MEDICINE.

THE NEW YORK DISPATCH FOR WEEK ENDING NOV. 3RD, 1889.

When the Indians in Montana had brought their wounded to be sent to the Blackfeet Agency, Dr. Wheeler gave the surgeon superintendent the medicine in question for relief. The surgeon, finding it of the very nature the sturdy Sioux thought it had a great deal better, but on showing the bottle to difficulty. The surgeon at wind that not unknown with the medicine.

DEVILT.

of fashion of the time. The early breeders of Dorset sheep did not cultivate the fleece so extensively, consequently their sheep were plainer.

A cow like that in the illustration is useful for canning on the search, sheep and sheep with light fleece. He would give weight and yield to the wool of the property. But the intensifying of his own early peculiarities in his own breed are not desirable. Fielding should stop when it touches the line of the absurd.

The ram in the illustration is one of the modern Merinos that want to Australia to help breed up the sheep of that region. Before he left he took first prize as the best ram of any age at the New York show.

Mrs. Evelyn B. Smith
Wash., Ga.

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FOR TABLE LINEN

SUNOL!

ROBERT SONNER

Superintending the shoeing of Sunol with the Putnam Nail.

PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA, MAY 8TH, 1894.

PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA, MAY 8TH, 1894.

PLEASANTON HOTEL STABLE, PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA.

GENTLEMEN—Regarding your letter of the 5th inst., this is to inform you that I have used the Putnam Nail exclusively for the last three years, and I find it to be the best nail I ever used. I have shod some of the fastest horses in California with your nails, and have never had a complaint. I shall continue to use the Putnam Nail as long as I can get it, and I can recommend it to any blacksmith.

Very respectfully yours,

Chas. Merrow

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Look in your smith's shoeing box. If the nails have smooth edges for the whole length they are the PUTNAM, for they are Hammer-Pointed and are not stamped.

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