

let funeral extravagance and inappropriate expensive observances not be forgotten. One's grief ought not to be gauged by the depth of the hat-bands, the breadth, length and number, of the scarfs, the decorations of the coffin, or the expensiveness of the monument. At such times individuals are not inclined to haggle over details. This renders it all the more necessary that public opinion should so make simplicity and plainness the rule, that anything else will never be tried.

A NAMELESS CORRESPONDENT'S VIEWS.

AS a rule, we take no notice of communications from those who do not give us their real names, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of their *bona fides*. There are, however, exceptions to this rule, and one of these is now before us. We can scarcely think the writer expected that his letter would be printed, and in this respect we shall not disappoint him. Some of his remarks are as sensible as they are quaint. It speaks well for him that he has taken THE PRESBYTERIAN from the very first and has regularly paid for it. If it would not disturb his equanimity, we should be inclined to quote Latin and say, *O si sic omnes!* There is another of his statements which may be very sensible without, we fear, being absolutely correct. He says, "what is the use of blaming non-contributors to the Home Mission Fund? These don't read THE PRESBYTERIAN." We are, of course, fully aware that we have the most intelligent and most liberal part of the Presbyterians in the Dominion amongst our readers, and that the fact of their being such has had a considerable influence in making them what they are both in intelligence and liberality. We doubt, however, if things are quite in such a satisfactory condition with all our constituency as our friend would have us believe. Do all our readers give, as this good man says they do, regularly, liberally, cheerfully and prayerfully, say, to the Home Mission Fund? We know we are proud of them, and we should like to be charitable, but after all we confess to a doubt on this point in some particular instances. In any and every case, however, we hope there will be no room for doubt by the time the Church financial year expires, in, we believe, April next.

Our "nameless" friend strongly recommends all Mission Committees to keep out of debt. Let them, he says, administer the funds the Christian people supply and nothing more. A good many will sympathize with him in this. God's cause is not likely to be very efficiently or very long promoted with borrowed money. Once open people's hearts and there will be little fear of their hands. While it is a poor thankless piece of work to be continually trying to force open by moral coercion, the fingers of the reluctant and the niggardly, and after all to find but a copper, or nothing, to reward the all but bootless toil.

We can scarcely put the tobacco and the dram on a level with the magazine, or the "Record," or THE PRESBYTERIAN. But at present we don't argue the matter. If the dram, etc., cost as little and did as much good, there might be some parallel between them. As things are we fear there is none.

As in a good number of cases, the sting with our present correspondent comes at the close of his letter, and we therefore give it in full for the benefit of all whom it may concern:

"But, Mr. Editor, are there not other things hindering the income of the Home Mission Fund besides those hit? We will not speak of hard times, for farmers are proverbial grumblers. In your rich city of Toronto there may be no such things, but many of our churches are covered with mortgages from foundation stone to steeple. These take all that folk can give. Now, we do like fine churches, but not clothed as above. In that state they may be looked upon just as much as monuments of pride as of piety. Had you every tenth dollar paid as interest on church debt, it would help the Home Mission Fund. Bunyan could spiritualize porch and pinnacle, tongs and snuffers, yet we doubt if even his genius could spiritualize a mortgage. Then again, there are organs—the 'kist o' whistles, ye ken.' To our old-fashioned notions, and our unmusical taste, they could be very well done without. 'Holding that the Gospel does not require their use, so neither does fervent piety crave it, nor the service of Christ need it.' The whole of what is paid for organs and organists even by our churches would be a wonderful help to the Home Mission Fund."

There is a good deal of plain, rugged sense about all that. At the same time, as a matter of fact, it is not to be denied that often the congregations which do least for themselves and incur least expense either for church accommodation, or psalmody, or sermon, give the least to help either the Home Mission Fund or the

Foreign. We draw a bow at a venture when we doubt if in our friend's congregation all that in other circumstances would have gone for interest and organist had there been either or both, found its way into the general coffers of the Church, for the extension of Christ's cause both at home and abroad.

A LETTER from St. Petersburg contradicts the recent reports of difficulties between the Czar and Czarewitch. It says the latter goes to the Winter Palace daily, and attends conferences between the Czar and his Ministers.

THE cable of the new telegraph line between Aden in Arabia, and South Africa, touches Zanzibar, Mozambique, Delagoa Bay, and Duban, and connects with the land line in South Africa. The rate will be two dollars and fifteen cents per word from London.

AFFAIRS in Afghanistan are not in a more reassuring condition than they were last week. Officials are using confident language and profoundly quite sure of everything turning out well, but the anxiety generally felt in England is rather on the increase than otherwise.

ANOTHER London newspaper man has been committed for trial for libel. The London "Era" in giving an account of a fancy ball and its attendants described some of the latter as "painted harlots." One of the gentlemen mentioned as being present has prosecuted the proprietor of the paper.

A CASE attracting considerable attention in the London courts is that of Provand & Co., a firm of merchants trading with China, against Langton & Riley, manufacturers of grey shirtings, at Manchester, for selling good so heavily sized that they become mildewed and discoloured so as to be unmarketable.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. Kirkpatrick has signified his acceptance of the call lately addressed to him by the congregation of Cooke's Church in this city. We welcome Mr. Kirkpatrick to the Dominion, and trust that a long and prosperous career is before him in his new sphere.

HOME MISSION FUND.—Dr. Reid has received a contribution of \$100 from "A Friend of Missions," Ontario; also from "A Friend," Perth, \$10; "A Lady Friend at Woodstock," \$5; a member of the First Presbyterian Church, La Chute, \$10; and from a "Lover of Missions," per Rev. J. K. Smith, Galt, \$2.43. Written receipts are given to those whose names are given with their contributions.

A SERIES of lectures has been arranged for the winter season in the Pickering College, Pickering, now under the able management of Mr. Bryant. On the evening of Saturday, the 13th ult., Rev. John J. Cameron delivered the fourth of the season on "The age of Bacon, its causes and consequences," which was listened to throughout with rapt attention by a large and appreciative audience. We understand it is to be published.

THERE seems every prospect of the destitution in Ireland being very severe during the coming months, and in all quarters meetings are being held and organizations formed in order to send food to the starving. It is only but fair on the other hand to add that some who claim to know the facts as well as those who are the greatest alarmists affirm that the destitution is not nearly so great as represented, and that a good deal of the cry is got up for political purposes. We fear the destitution is only too real, and in any case it is best to err on the side of charity and brotherhood.

A PRESBYTER writing to the London "Daily Review," in reply to the Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser, concludes his letter thus: "The Presbyterian Church of England, with her grand traditions, her sound standards, her powerful men in London and elsewhere, and, may I add, without offence, her old and tried allies in Scotland, holds a strong position, and presents a fine rallying-ground for the thought and piety of England. It may not be in our days, to whom the shadows are beginning to lengthen, but I believe her future is a great one, which all loyal Presbyterians, or, better still, all those who love the Lord and His Truth, should strive to further and to sustain."

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Good Company.

Springfield, Mass., 1879. No. 4.

A very good number.

A Voice from Italy.

Those who wish to know what is being accomplished in the way of Italian evangelization could not do better than get the "Voice from Italy." It is published at 13 South St. Andrew's street, Edinburgh, and is only 20 cents per annum. The information it gives is both interesting and accurate.

Moral Culture.

By the Rev. D. H. Macvicar, LL.D., S.T.P., Montreal.

We noticed this excellent lecture at the time it was delivered before the Ontario Teachers' Association, and gave its peroration in full. We are glad to see that it has been published separately, and hope that in this shape it will be widely circulated as it well deserves.

The Atlantic Monthly.

"The Atlantic Monthly" for January, 1880, has all the usual excellent characteristics of that popular periodical, with others superadded. It has at least sixteen pages more matter than in average preceding numbers, is printed from new and larger type, and contains almost every kind of article "from grave to gay, from lively to severe."

The Eclectic Magazine.

New York: E. R. Pelton.

The January number of the "Eclectic" is out, with a good engraving illustrating Goldsmith's line: "Full well they laughed with counterfeited glee;" another representing "Sir Walter Scott and his literary friends at Abbotsford;" and the usual abundant supply of reading matter, fresh from the latest English periodicals.

The Canada Educational Monthly.

Edited by G. Mercer Adam. Toronto: Printed for the Proprietors by C. Blackett Robinson.

Todhunter, the famous mathematician, contributes to the November number of the "Educational Monthly" a suggestive article on "Recent Changes in the Mathematical Examinations in the University of Cambridge." In the same number Dr. Mills of Hamilton popularizes the physiology of the human eye, directing attention specially to the causes of *Myopia*, or near-sightedness, now becoming such a common disease even among school children. Experts in Algebra and Geometry will always find something to exercise their powers in the Arts Department, ably edited by Archibald McMurchy, M.A., of Toronto. This magazine well deserves the patronage of the teaching profession and of all others who take an interest in educational matters.

The Canada School Journal.

Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.

In the December number of the "School Journal" we find the second of a series of papers on School Management, by Mr. James Hughes, Public School Inspector, Toronto, in which the subject receives very thorough treatment. Dr. Hodgins contributes an article on the "Elements of our Educational Success." According to the Deputy Minister, the "principles" essential to the success of an educational system are: (1) Free Schools and Compulsory Attendance, (2) Suitable School Houses, (3) Fully Trained Teachers, (4) Comprehensive Programme, (5) Uniform Examinations, (6) Thorough Inspection. With the exception of some "marked defects and several deficiencies," the operations of these "principles" in the hands of the promoters of our school system, has, he says, been "most satisfactory." The number contains several other contributions, and the editorial and practical departments are well occupied. With this number the "Journal" completes its third volume.

ROLL up a large list for your own paper for the coming year. Pair of premium engravings to every subscriber. The press pronounces this offer as "altogether unprecedented in the history of Canadian journalism."

THE size and shape of THE PRESBYTERIAN are sometimes urged against it. Bear in mind it is sixteen pages; and the shape, for a religious paper, is neater and much more convenient than the "broadside." Similar papers in the United States are \$3 per year.