

advantage over the weak in breaking the threads and escaping, but the very effort to escape, causing a violent vibration of the web, sounds the death knell of the victim, for my experience has been that the spider always kills the largest and strongest flies first. In fact, a spider's web seems formed to aid in defeating the hypothesis that the favourable variety is irresistibly selected to life, for the web is filled wholly by chance, death comes to favourable and unfavourable varieties alike, or if a selection be made between the weak and the strong as to which must die first, the fittest to live, *i.e.*, the strongest, is selected to die.

REVIEWS.

THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD.*

When the book was published which made Mr. Drummond's literary reputation, "Natural Law in the Spiritual Life," we had no doubt of the remarkable ability of the author as a thinker or as a writer; but there were certain principles involved in its main argument which we could not accept. Such is not the case with the admirable little work now lying before us. It is slight, but it is altogether golden. And how could it be otherwise when it is the work of a godly, learned, eloquent man, discoursing on the greatest thing in the world, something greater even than that mighty power which overcomes the world, greater than that sustaining principle which draws strength from the contemplation of the future; for great as is faith, great as is hope, the greatest of all is love. If this discourse could only be widely circulated and diligently and earnestly studied, it would change the face of society.

PROFESSOR DRUMMOND ON TROPICAL AFRICA.†

This is a very neat and inexpensive reprint of a most interesting and valuable volume. Professor Drummond was unusually well equipped for the work of exploration by his ample stores of accurate scientific knowledge; so that he was not able merely to make careful observation of facts, but could also interpret and connect them. The present volume grew out of lectures which the Professor delivered after returning from his travels. These lectures proved of so much interest that he was urged to throw them into such a form that they might be known to the public at large. Mr. Drummond has chosen wisely the scale of his volume. As he remarks, great books of travel have had their day, (we are not quite sure that their day is past and over). But small books, with the larger features of a country lightly sketched, and just enough narrative to make you feel that you are really there, have a function in helping the imagination of those who have not breath enough to keep up with the great explorers. Apart from the scientific and naturalistic interest of the book, Professor Drummond has deeper humanitarian aims in what he has written. He fears that the evils exposed by Livingstone are beginning to be forgotten, and that the interest which he excited in them has begun to die out. "To many modern travellers Africa is simply a country to be explored: to Livingstone it was a land to be pitied and redeemed." And he goes on to observe that recent events on Lake Nyassa have stirred a new desire in the hearts of those who care for native Africa that "the open sore of the world" should have a last and decisive treatment at the hands of England. This is, no doubt, most desirable; but how about Germany and Portugal, to go no further? This is, however, an excellent book and gives a vivid impression of the marvellous country explored and of the horrid condition of the population.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEACHING.* By the Very Rev. the Dean of Montreal. Price 10 cents, \$1.00 a dozen. W. Drysdale & Co., Montreal. 1890.

This is a first tract of a series preparing for publication under the above general heading. The

*The Greatest Thing in the World. By Henry Drummond, F.R.S.E., F.G.S. Price 35 cents. Pott & Co., New York; Rowsell & Hutchison, Toronto. 1890.

†Tropical Africa. By Henry Drummond, LL.D. 35 cents. Alden, New York; CANADIAN CHURCHMAN Office, 32 & 34 Adelaide St. East, Toronto. 1890.

respected author tells us that it is written to meet what he has long regarded as a great need; and we agree entirely that there is a need for some teaching which may prevent the members of other communions from drifting into our own Church without clearly realizing the great landmarks of her distinctive teaching. This need is admirably met by the present Tract. We may convey an idea of its contents by giving a few of the headings of the sections. The first are the following: The nature of the Church, Position of the Laity in the Church, Position of the Clergy in the Church, Continuity of the Ministry. Under the second division on Baptism, come the following: Infant Baptism, Lay Baptism, The position of Childhood in the Church, Adult Baptism. Then follow sections on the Catechism, Confirmation, Holy Communion. The little tract is on strictly Prayer Book lines. It meets a real need admirably; and as an outline of a course of teaching the clergy will find it most useful to follow in delivering lectures on these fundamental questions.

MAGAZINES.—*The Century* (April) is full of interesting articles. The first on that charming painter, Giovanni Bellini, is not only well written, but is accompanied by charming reproductions of two of his Madonnas at Venice. The Autobiography of Joseph Jefferson is continued; and, among the woodcuts, we have a representation of the writer in his celebrated character of Rip Van Winkle. Many other articles of equal interest we cannot even indicate; and we must add that the illustrations are profuse and admirable. *Littell's Living Age* (April 5) has the Bishop of Carlisle's able article on Wallace's discussion of Darwinism, the Lyricism of the English Romantic School by Mr. J. A. Symonds, Canon Macoll's article on Döllinger in the *Contemporary*, Mr. Gladstone on the Housing of Books, and last, though not least amusing, Curiosities from Schoolboy Wit, from *Longman*. *The Churchman* (April) has several articles of great practical interest, such as the Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Protestant Churchmen's Alliance; also one of no slight importance on Influenza. Some of these will receive separate treatment.

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

QUEBEC.

QUEBEC.—The Easter services in the various city churches were well attended, and the number of communicants was exceptionally large. All the churches, with the exception of Trinity, were suitably decorated for the festive occasion.

St. Matthew's.—The beautiful and joyous Easter services at St. Matthew's were attended by crowded congregations. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 6.30 a.m. (plain); 7.30 a.m. (choral); and after Matins, (also choral). The number of communicants was very large, reaching close to 400. The music was fine, and partook of the festive character of the day. The altar and font were tastefully decorated with natural flowers and plants by the ladies of the congregation.

The Cathedral.—In this church there were celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and after Matins, both of which were well attended. The decorations were very handsome, and the musical service was as usual splendid.

St. Peter's.—As usual, St. Peter's was handsomely decorated for the joyous occasion, and the attendance at the 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. celebrations was very good. The choir also did their part in excellent style.

Vestry Meetings.—*The Cathedral*.—The annual vestry meeting was held in the National School Hall, the Very Rev. Dean Norman in the chair. The dean renominated Mr. Edwin Jones as his churchwarden, and Mr. E. J. Hale was re-elected peoples' warden. The following were elected a select vestry: Dr. Parker, Messrs. J. Dunbar, Q.C., J. Patton, Jr., J. C. More, E. H. Wade, C. P. Champion, H. M. Price, H. Staveley, W. C. Scott, R. H. Smith, T. Beckett, and R. Turner. Messrs. R. H. Smith, W. G. Wurtelle, and J. Dunbar, Q.C., were elected delegates to the Synod.

St. Matthew's.—There was a good attendance at the vestry meeting. Rev. L. W. Williams, M.A., rector, presided. Messrs. John Hamilton and E. Pope were re-elected wardens, and the Hon. Geo. Irvine, Q.C., delegate to Synod. The sidesmen

elected were: Messrs. W. H. Carter, C. Judge, Hon. Geo. Irvine, Q.C., Geo. Lampson, A. J. Colston, W. B. Scott, Geo. R. White, Dr. H. D. Ross, Com. Genl. M. Belvine, C.B., C.M.G., and P. O'Regan. The reports of the wardens showed the finances to be in a most prosperous condition.

St. Peter's.—Messrs. E. T. D. Chambers and Borland were elected wardens; R. Ruthman, auditor; and Messrs. W. Elliott, Morton, Brown, and Scott, sidesmen; and Ald. E. T. Chambers, lay delegate to the Synod. A vote of thanks was voted to the generous churchmen of Quebec who had contributed towards the repairs of the rectory.

Trinity.—At the vestry meeting held on Monday evening, Messrs. H. Griffiths and T. H. Mahony were elected wardens; Messrs. Smith, Mitchell, Wiggs, Garrett, Wilkinson, and Argue, sidesmen; and W. C. Gibsons, lay delegate to Synod.

St. Paul's.—Messrs. E. H. Taylor and James Piper were re-elected churchwardens, and Mr. Geo. Robinson, delegate to Synod.

LEVIS.—*Holy Trinity*.—Mr. Alex. Russell was elected rector's warden, and Mr. T. A. Poston, peoples' warden for the ensuing year.

THREE RIVERS.—The late rector of this parish, Rev. H. Jenkins, B.A., who was superannuated a short time ago on account of ill health, passed peacefully away on the 5th inst., deeply mourned by his many friends and parishioners.

BOURG LOUIS.—On Thursday evening the 3rd inst., a number of the parishioners waited on the Rev. H. C. Stuart, M.A., at his residence, and presented him with a purse of \$90, accompanied by the following address:

To the Rev. H. C. Stuart, M.A., incumbent of Bourg Louis.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned, having heard of your appointment to the rectory of Three Rivers, hasten to express to you our profound and sincere regret at losing you as our rector, but at the same time to congratulate you on your appointment to a charge in many respects more worthy of your talents. We assure you that we shall never forget your kindness to us all during the sixteen years you have spent among us, especially the poor, who will ever remember your many acts of charity. We all feel that we are losing a firm and steadfast friend, and a kind indulgent pastor, ever ready at the call of duty. We beg to assure you that you carry away with you to your new field of labor, from one and all of us, our best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity. The address bears the signatures of fifty-two residents of Bourg Louis, St. Raymond, Lake St. Joseph, and a few Quebecers, among whom may be mentioned the name of Jules Tessier, Esq., M.P.P. for the county of Portneuf.

Women's Auxiliary.—The quarterly meeting of the Quebec Diocesan Branch of the Women's Auxiliary, was held in the St. Matthew's parish room, Quebec, on Friday, March 28th, at 3 p.m.

It was one of the most successful meetings yet held. All the presidents, most of the officers of the city and neighboring branches, delegates of Sherbrooke, Compton, Lennoxville, Richmond, and Melbourne, St. George's and numerous members being present, making in all between sixty and seventy. Mrs. VonHoffland presided. The meeting opened with a hymn and prayers.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The treasurer reported no receipts and no payments since last meeting, except \$1 from Richmond and Melbourne for Zenana fund. Cash on hand \$1.80. Reports were read from all the branches except Lennoxville, Cookshire, New Liverpool, New Ireland, and West Frampton; also grateful and most interesting letters from missionaries who have benefited by the work of our branches of the W. A.

A most valuable letter was read from the Hon. President, Mrs. Williams, dwelling upon the need of training children in self-denial, and calling attention to how little this virtue is exercised in the mission cause, by those of riper years.

The president read a letter from the Western Convocation tendering warm thanks for gifts and sympathy received from the Women's Auxiliary. It was announced that the W. A. of this diocese having joined the Toronto Letter Leaflet subscriptions will begin with the April number. Price 20 cts. a year. Orders for copies and payments to be sent to the parochial secretaries, who will please forward to the diocesan secretary at 79 St. Ursule street, Quebec.

The following resolutions were adopted:

That permission be asked that a service and celebration of the Holy Communion be held before the annual meeting, and that His Lordship the Bishop be asked to give an address.

That the diocesan officers be elected by ballot at the annual meeting.

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