

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

The citizens of Ottawa are hearing the initiatory rumblings of the civic election campaign which is to come to a head early next month. It is their opportunity to make up for past remissness and determine that the men for whom they shall mark their ballots shall be the best men obtainable, intellectually, morally and socially.

There are three things the electors should not be or do: (1) They should not be indifferent to the importance of civic issues. Every man and woman who has a vote should cast that vote, remembering that the electoral franchise is a sacred trust and responsibility which they should exercise in the interests of clean and efficient civic administration. (2) They should not allow themselves to be influenced by race, creed or sectarian considerations. The effectiveness and cleanness of civic administration depends mainly upon the business ability, integrity and moral character which the mayor and alderman can bring to bear in the discharge of their duties as chosen representatives of the people. (3) They should not allow themselves to be influenced by partisan political considerations. In the federal and provincial arenas the people have the enjoyment of, or are pestered with, all the politics they require—perhaps more than is good for them. The best men, irrespective of race, creed or political considerations, is what the electors should keep in view.

The Christian electors of Ottawa—the members of Christian churches, Catholic and Protestant, should keep moral issues prominently to the front, and stand together in support of men who can be depended upon to maintain civic righteousness in the administration of civic affairs, men who will stand for faithful observance of the Lord's Day, to the end that every man, and especially every working man will be enabled to enjoy rest from labor and freedom to worship God as his moral intelligence and conscience dictate; men who will give the bosses and patrons of the liquor saloon and the gambling hells to understand that they cannot be allowed to dominate at their own sweet will the administration of this city or trample upon law and order with impunity; men who will bring to the discharge of their duty, as servants of the citizens of Ottawa, business ability, business integrity and conscientious endeavor to do right in every emergency and under all circumstances, remembering that they are for the time the custodians of the interests, the welfare and the reputation of the capital of the Dominion.

It is the duty of the Christian citizens of Ottawa to take an active and intelligent interest in civic politics from the standpoint of good morals and efficient business administration. It is no excuse for them to say that civic politics are dirty—they don't want to touch them. If civic politics are dirty, and civic affairs administered in a slovenly and unbusiness-like fashion, then it is the duty of Christian citizens to unite in a determined effort to remove the uncleanness and

impurity and reform whatever is unbusiness-like in civic administration. This is a responsibility attaching to and resting upon every intelligent and law abiding citizen. Why should the log-rollers, the saloon keepers, the keepers of unlicensed liquor dens, the gambling fraternity, the civic-politicians for revenue, who want to sharpen their little axes on the civic grindstone at the expense of the taxpayers, and their men-of-all-work—why should these be allowed full swing in making "ducks and drakes" of civic interests, civic character and civic morality? And yet this is what is done when Christian men hold themselves aloof from civic politics because they are indifferent, or under the plea that civic politics are dirty. Their indifference and neglect are mainly responsible for the existence of such undesirable conditions. Their plain duty is to be at the front until the campaign is ended.

NOTES ON NEW BOOKS.

WORK, by Hugh Black, M.A., 75c, Fleming H. Revell, Toronto. This neat little green covered volume attracts attention by its simplicity and by the conciseness of its title. It is not a sociological treatise for the student, but a practical treatment of life's everyday duties, showing that highest ideals are possible even on the humblest plane. The chapter titles indicate the scope of Mr. Black's book. Some of them are "Idleness and Work," "The Moral Need of Work," "The Duty of Work," "The Ideal of Work." Hugh Black is well known through his fine book on "Friendship," and "Work" will surely enhance his reputation.

POEMS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW, selected by Elia W. Peattie, \$1.50, Fleming H. Revell company, Toronto. This is a collection of the great poems of all ages with which we ought not only to be familiar but which we "ought to know." The publication of these poems each day in the Chicago Tribune has proved one of the most attractive features of that journal and their publication in this permanent form is in response to a very large demand. The illustrations on each page by Ellsworth Young help to make up a most attractive volume of verse.

Literary Notes.

Quite an elaborate ritual has been used by Rev. F. B. Meyer in his church in London, England, but he has become convinced that the workmen do not like it and is going back to a simpler service.

The opening article in the December Cosmopolitan (Irvine, New York) is by Lady Henry Somerset on British Social Life. The illustrations are specially good. The Editor writes an interesting and profitably illustrated article on The Wonders of New York; and there are short stories by Maarten Maartens, William Hamilton Osborne, Edith Wharton and Tom Masson.

Good Housekeeping for December (Dominion Phelps, Toronto) has a distinctly holiday appearance, with its bright red cover and holly leaves for decoration. The contents too are Christmasy, and many suggestions are given as to making presents and doing the Christmas cooking. Miss Randal's ar-

ticle on How We Kept the Day in South Africa is bright and interesting, and the other articles and stories are of a high level.

The Christmas Harper's Magazine (Harper and Brothers, New York) with its rich green cover and its many coloured illustrations is a thing of beauty, and from a literary point of view it is equally satisfying. Stories by Mark Twain, Mary E. Wilkind Freeman, Margaret Deland, Elizabeth G. Jordan and Edith Wharton, make the number exceptionally good; and the other stories and articles are most readable.

The November number of The Literary Collector (The Literary Collection Press, Greenwich, Conn.) opens with an article by Victor Hugo, Paltsits on a Rare Factional Pamphlet, Printed at New York by James Parker in 1747. Then Arnold Lethbridge describes The Library of M. Le Comte de Fortsas. Other articles are: American Bookbindings in the Library of Henry William Poor: Notes on Modern Art: A Relic of the Early Reformers, and Book Reviews.

The Studio for November (44 Leicester Square, London, England) contains Reminiscences of Whistler in an article by W. Scott, entitled Some Venice Recollections. Then follows a very interesting description of The Recent Annual Glasgow School of Art Club Exhibition. In Some Remarks on the Work of S. Pepps Cockerell, G. Ulick Browne gives a good idea of the work of this well known sculptor. Edgumbe Staley writes of the Danish Painter Lauritz Holst and Rosa Newmarch contributes Some Notes on Modern Russian Art. Leonore Van der Veer's article on The Work of the late George Wilson is interesting, and Studio Talk is especially so, as it includes a short description of the annual exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy held at Ottawa this year. Reproductions of several paintings by our best artists are given.

The December Bibelot, (T. B. Moher, Portland, Maine), contains a garland of Christmas verses which includes several of the well known favourites, such as: God Rest You merry, Gentlemen; Isaac Watts' Cradle song; Phillip Brooks', O Little Town of Bethlehem; It Came upon the Midnight Clear; and Ring out, Wild Bells. In addition there are a number of quaint old hymns and carols, and also poems by Swinburne and Morris. In the introduction the following lines are quoted:

"They all were looking for a king
To slay their foes and lift them high!
Thou cam'st a little baby thing
That made a woman cry."

O Son of Mary, to right my lot
Naught but Thy presence can avail;
Yet on the road Thy wheels are not,
Nor on the sea Thy sail!

My how or when Thou wilt not heed,
But come down Thine own secret stair,
That Thou mayst answer all my need—
Yea, every by-gone prayer."

Many Appetizing Dishes.

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