

ASCENSION-TIDE.

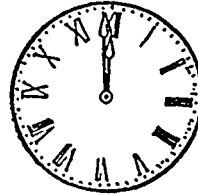
THE Ascension-tide rounds out and completes the Christian year. Ascension and Advent are the two *Momenta* of that year, as fall and spring of the natural year. The message of the Ascension is, "Lo, I am with you always"; that of Advent is, "Behold, I come quickly." The sun that rises daily is the constant life of the world, not only for the world that basks in its rays, or for the vegetation that springs at its call, but for the cold world, where the fires make warm homes; for the inert world, where the fires drive the engine wheels of life's industry; for the dark world, where moon and stars and the lamp of student and workman unite to show the onward path. But this, the sun's Ascension truth, is verified by its Advent lesson; and in the sunrise there lie the pledge and possibility of all these things. The Christ of the Ascension, who is with us always, is the same Christ who is forever coming to us through repeated manifestations. And indeed the abiding presence is realized and assured by and through those manifestations; the Christ-life is ours, because His revelation of Himself is again and again vouchsafed; His spirit is our possession, just because He is forever in new ways our Leader into all truth.

More specifically, the Ascension truth is the truth of the joining of earth and Heaven. This union is a process forever going on, and the movement is from the earth heaven-ward, and from Heaven earthward. It is constantly being realized in us, both as a motive of destiny and through the sympathy of perfection. The motive of destiny is that persistent and potent element in our humanity that draws men beyond themselves upward to higher life in other worlds, that makes cities of earth strive toward the heavenly Jerusalem. It is the spur of the best endeavor, and it lies at the heart of hope. It can neither be stifled by the noisy and shallow plaudits of present day satisfaction, nor perverted by the selfish salvations that a materialistic other-worldliness recommends. The sympathy of a perfection is its correspondent, and reaches down out of Heaven with a need of earth that draws earth itself. The heights of perfection are not removed in isolation, but draw near in understanding and helpfulness. Men have thought that attainment, as it nears perfection, withdraws into exclusiveness. But the Man has declared that the highest perfection leads to the largest companionship of souls, that the supreme aristocracy is democratic. "Ye heard how I said to you, I go away, and I come unto you. If ye loved me, ye would have rejoiced, because I go unto the Father." In this two-fold movement, which is ever more completely the reality of ex-

perience, rests the oneness of earth and Heaven and the essential union of our humanity with the Christ.—*The Church*.

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—II. Cor. v. 14.
Communications relating to this Department should be addressed to Miss L. H. Montizambert, Provincial Corresponding Secretary W. A., 159 College Street, Toronto.



Remember daily the mid-day prayer for missions

"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession." : Ps. ii. 8.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE W.A.

The following is the report of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 1895-96 :

No. of Branches, 479, of which 134 are Junior Branches	
No. of Members, 12,756, " 3,824 " Members	
No. of Bales sent out during the year.	590
Money raised " "	\$18,099.27
Cash spent on new material and freight.....	\$8,857.92
Circulation of monthly letter leaflet.....	\$7,225

Missionaries supported by or gone out from the W. A.: Rev. J. Hinchcliffe, (\$100), Mrs. Wilson, Miss Jennie Smith, Miss Phillips, Miss Haynes, Miss Symonds, Miss Brown, Miss Tims, Miss Crawford, Miss Paterson, two Bible women in India, two Bible women in China, two Bible women in Japan.

Eleven children of missionaries are being educated by the W.A., either wholly or in part.

Respectfully submitted.

L. H. MONTIZAMBERT, Cor. Sec. Pro. W.A.

Books and Periodicals Department

The New Century Review. Price, Sixpence. London: The Unicorn Press, 26 Paternoster Square, E.C. New York: The International News Company, Duane Street.

Mr. Justin McCarthy in the May number gives a vivid sketch of Sir William Harcourt, whom he regards as one of the leading figures in the House of Commons. Mr. T. H. S. Escott has an article on the "Social Cult of the American Cousin, Lay and Clerical," in which he refers to the "Impressions" of the late Bishop Coxe, of Western New York; a very charming book written by Dr. Coxe after his first visit to England. Mrs. Meade's idea of a School for Fiction does not meet with much favor at the hands of those who write a symposium on it, and yet her idea seems to be not that a school could take the place of genius or elevate an ordinary mortal to that high eminence, but that even those of high gifts could not possibly lose anything and might possibly be much benefited by a little wholesome instruction. However, it is only genius that will rise to the top. *Poeta nascitur non fit*. Many other interesting articles make up the May number of the magazine.

(1) *The Expositor*, (2) *The Clergyman's Magazine*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 27 Paternoster Row.

The Expositor for May opens up the question of "The Knowledge of a Future State Possessed by the Ancient Hebrews," by Prof. Roberts, of the University of St. Andrews. It is inspired by an expression used