

Correspondence.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

SIR,—Let me call the attention of those of your readers who are interested in the worthy aims of the Augmentation Scheme of our Church to the clause in the regulations which requires a contribution of \$4.50 per communicant towards the salary of the minister on the part of every congregation receiving aid from the Augmentation Fund, which clause has worked and is working injury and injustice to the cause of missions in the District of Algoma as the following facts clearly show. I shall simply refer to the cases connected directly with my own work of the past four and a half years.

Two years ago I was appointed to the Tarbutt field which consists of three stations, Port Loch, Tarbutt and Bar River. The work prospered, the membership increasing from eighty-seven to 150, a manse was completed last February and the desire for a settled pastor became general. Meetings of the congregation voted unanimously to apply to Presbytery for leave to call and for aid from the Augmentation Fund, promising \$450 per annum with manse accommodation for the minister, or \$500 and manse provided a suitable Gaelic minister could be secured. The Presbytery would gladly have granted the application knowing the circumstances of the field but the clause referred to was an insuperable barrier and the result is disappointment and dissatisfaction. Now, the manifest injustice of the clause is seen when we notice (1) That the people promise all that it is reasonable to expect from them, considering their circumstances, and (2) That the increase of membership is what shuts them out from participation in the fund. Had there been a state of spiritual stagnation with little or no increase of membership, the request could be granted according to this clause, but simply because we have had prosperity in spiritual things so that there was a large addition to the membership from the ranks of adherents who had contributed just the same before they joined, we are to expect no favors from the Augmentation Fund. Those who sustain the (to us) obnoxious clause must surely overlook the fact that the membership of a congregation may be doubled or trebled even without a material increase in the contributions, that is where the increase is from within. A good Presbyterian gives all he can before his children join the church. Is it just to tell him in effect that his children ought to become members as soon as they are spiritually prepared but that he must pay a tax of \$4.50 a head on them if he is to expect for his congregation any favors from a fund of the church the one aim of which is to bestow favors on the weaker members of the great body. Does this clause not tend to put a premium on a low membership and a correspondingly low state of spirituality?

The only other field in which I labored as an ordained missionary was shut out in the same way. I refer to Gore Bay. There the membership in the first year trebled, running up from 66 to near 200. Very few of these came in from other congregations and the paying power, in the very nature of the case, was not increased to any great extent. There was a strong feeling to advance to the status of a settled congregation, but this clause stood in the way and I was blamed for the increase of membership which stood in their way. Now who is the real party to blame? Must we missionaries be told to moderate our activity and zeal in building up the cause? If for one, do not so understand my commission, and I confess to not a little discouragement on account of the operation of this clause. I wrote from Gore Bay over two years ago to a prominent official in Home Missions and stated the case but never received a syllable in reply.

In Algoma augmentation has retrograded rather than advanced during the past few years. One congregation has gone back to the Home Mission Fund and none have been added to the list while several might be added if they were dealt with in a manner having due regard to their circumstances, especially by exempting them from the operation of the rule referred to. I refrain from entering into any discussion of other influences that have tended to work to the detriment of the laudable scheme for augmentation of stipend, believing that my experience as given here will be given due weight by those who have the scheme in charge.

G. E. MACGILLIVRAY.

Literary Notes.

REVISION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CONFESSION OF FAITH. New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham. Price 20 cents.

This anonymous pamphlet is evidently written by a thorough-going Pelagian who would never be satisfied with any possible revision of the Confession of Faith, and is only taking advantage of this title to get a hearing. It is somewhat smartly written but deals in little beyond the familiar objections to the Augustinian or Calvinistic theology, which have been met so often both from Scripture and from the hard facts of life. This is a controversy, however, which no argument has ever been able to settle and probably never will. The only valuable reflection which it suggests is as to the possibility of having the whole question an open one, ecclesiastically. Whatever may be said as to the logic of the matter, past experience shows that both views are consistent with the holding of the main evangelical doctrines and with practical piety.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY IN CHICAGO.

Most readers of Dr. Denney's now famous book "Studies in Theology" are aware that it consists of a series of ten lectures delivered by him last year in the Chicago Theological Seminary (Congregational). His services were obtained for this course owing to the fact that the college had not been able to secure a suitable person to fill permanently the chair of Systematic Theology. Dr. Denney, as is well-known, belongs to the Free Church of Scotland. This last session the Seminary authorities, for the same reason, brought out Dr. Orr, of the N. P. Theological Hall, Edinburgh, for a similar course of ten lectures on the Influence of German Philosophy on Theology in the present century, which was afterwards repeated with so much acceptance in Winnipeg during the summer session. The Seminary has now appointed a professor to the chair, and he is also a Scotchman by descent and education at least if not by actual birth. This is the Rev. W. D. Mackenzie, for the past six years pastor of the Morningside Congregational church, Edinburgh. Prof. Mackenzie was born in South Africa, the son of a missionary still working in that field, but received all his education in Edinburgh, being a graduate of the University and of the Congregational Hall. He afterwards took a short post-graduate course in the University of Gottingen. He has been a successful pastor, and though only thirty-six years of age, is already well-known as a contributor to some of the leading Scottish and English periodicals. His career in this new sphere will be followed with much interest.

THE RED, RED WINE: A Temperance Story by J. Jackson Wray, author of "Nestle-ton Magna," "Matthew Mellowdew," etc. Toronto: William Briggs, 1895.

This is a neat and tasteful Canadian reprint of the last story written by this earnest temperance advocate. There will always be difference of opinion as to the artistic value of fiction written with an ulterior purpose and especially by one whose soul is on fire with sorrowful indignation at some gigantic evil. There is always the suspicion of exaggeration and lack of due perspective. But there can be no doubt about the dramatic skill with which the dangers of intemperance are set forth in this book. The scene of the story is, of course, in England, but it is not so very long ago when it would have been true to life in Canada as well. Much of it is not without parallel still if any one cares to look about him with his eyes open. The different characters are, on the whole, well and naturally drawn. Especially effective is the genial kindness and tact of old Aaron Brigham in his efforts to bring about a better state of affairs in the small East Yorkshire market town. The Christian duty of total abstinence, either for our own personal safety or for the love of others, has seldom been better put, and the work might profitably find a place in every Sabbath school library.

An Old and Most Reliable Concern.

It affords us pleasure to testify to the merits of good and reliable work, and to record the industrial activity of a concern. The old established Buckeye Bell Foundry, Cincinnati, Ohio, The E. W. Vandusen Co., proprietors, report that despite the financial

distress throughout the country during the past two and one-half years, they have made almost as many bells for churches, fire alarms, etc., in 1893 and 1894 respectively, as in any previous year, and for the first six months of 1895 have far exceeded any previous year of the firm's existence. Just now they are completing a magnificent chime of thirteen bells for the Atlanta Exposition, another chime of 13,000 lbs. for one of the finest churches in the city of Chicago, another chime of bells for Central Illinois, and another chime of bells is being made for an Ohio Lutheran church, besides several large fire bells of 4,000 and 5,000 lbs., and a 4,000 lbs. bell for the United States Government. They are also making a 30,000 lbs. monster bell for a large church in Cincinnati, which will contain on its surface the names of the donor, his immediate family, and of the Archbishop of Cincinnati, and of the President of the United States, and of the founders. It will be the largest bell ever made in this country, and the selection of this firm to fill this order indicates the superior ability and fame of this concern as high grade bell founders.

The Highways of Europe.

THE above is the title of a new Picture-Lecture announced to be delivered by Mr. Frank Yeigh in Association Hall on Monday evening, October 14th. It will be illustrated by one hundred magnificent stereopticon views, covering the chief scenes of interest from North Cape to Naples, and some of the pictures will be accompanied by vocal and instrumental solos. Both the large organ and Cornish's orchestra will help to make up a fine musical programme. It will be the re-opening of Association Hall after its much-needed redecoration and renovation. The proceeds of the lecture will go to the Young Men's Christian Association. Mr. Yeigh is achieving an enviable reputation as a lecturer.

Then and Now.

THE time must be well within the recollection of most of our readers when a great many prejudices existed against life insurance, but we are now glad to say, from careful observation, that most of such prejudices have been gradually dispelled, and as a result of the general advancement of knowledge regarding different lines of business during the past half-century, life insurance has greatly obtained the favor of the majority of our people, and to-day we find that not only life insurance for the protection of the family is sought for, but, in addition, the investment element is largely being adopted, and appears in most of the contracts of our regular life companies. The intending insurer of to-day need have no anxiety in respect to the company he desires to select, provided he takes the necessary steps to obtain full information regarding its financial standing. This can be readily ascertained in reference to the Government blue book on insurance.

There are great differences between companies, however, even though they may issue the same kind of policies, and transact in nearly all respects the same kind of business. One company is better than another if it is able to earn a higher rate of interest on its invested assets, and also if it is in a position to show a satisfactory surplus over and above all liabilities.

Canadians should be, and no doubt are, sufficiently patriotic to foster home institutions by transacting their business with them, more especially those which invariably have all their assets invested in Canadian securities, thus in no small way helping to build up the resources of our own country. One of our leading companies, distinctly Canadian, and one which merits the patronage of all classes of insurers, is that strong and successful home company, the North American Life, of this city. Its record is unexcelled by that of any other company. Its plans of insurance are second to none. Its treatment of, and equitable dealings with its policy-holders have gained for it the respect and admiration of all classes.

The head office of this sterling institution is located at 22 to 24 King street west, Toronto, Ont., where full information will be cheerfully furnished on application therefor to William McCabe, managing director, or it can be secured from any of company's agents.