

The book professes to give a great deal of useful information relating to the Geography, Climate, Population, Education, Social Conditions, Geology, Agriculture, Products, Manufactures, Banking, Railways, Canals, and a mass of important facts, and Statistical Tables. This very copious claim we are inclined to think it makes good. We have examined the volume with some care, and have detected hardly any slips, and these not such as would be generally misleading. For example, we are told that there is a University at Toronto. The Editor might not be aware that there are three; but he ought to have known that for many years, for more than half the life of the city, there have been two.

This article on Toronto, however, is a very good specimen of the value and extent of the information which is here afforded. We learn the position of the city, its distance from Montreal, &c. We are told that it was formerly called York, that in 1881 it had a population of 86,415, and in 1888, 164,000, or (including Parkdale, now added to the city) 170,000. We are told of the principal ecclesiastical and other buildings, of the numerous manufactories, and, in fact, the information on every conceivable subject seems to be complete and accurate. It is quite unnecessary to recommend a volume which is in every way so serviceable and so admirable.

THE GREAT HYMNS.[†]

This volume is calculated to be of great service, in a practical manner, to the worshippers in all our Reformed Christian Churches. It is not a format history of Hymnology, nor does the writer attempt any classification of the authors. It does not, therefore, take the place of more formal treatises on this subject, which will still be needed by those who wish to study the subject historically, in anything like a complete and systematic manner; but it does give what will be even more useful to ordinary readers and worshippers, an account of the origin and authorship of our principal English hymns, and this with a fullness which could hardly have been used in a more complete exposition.

The author, who writes with the enthusiasm of a man who is at home with his Hymnal, tells us that his first intention was to confine himself to the twelve greatest hymns, and with this view he began his papers in the "Canada Presbyterian"; but he soon received such encouragement from those who became interested in his labours that he extended his work until it reached its present dimensions. Every one who is familiar with our modern English hymns, and with all the most popular collections of them, will see at a glance how well Dr. Morrison has made his selection. Hardly one of the hymns which he illustrates is absent from any Hymn Book in use at the present time.

First comes the *Te Deum*, "the great historical hymn," as he calls it, then Neale's translation of the "old Greek Hymn," *Art thou weary? Dies Ira*, "the great judgment hymn," comes next, and is treated very sympathetically; but whilst we agree with a good deal that Dr. Morrison says of the hymn, and admit that there are passages of great beauty and magnificence in it, such as those which he quotes in connexion with the last days of Walter Scott, and the grand verse beginning "Quærens me sedisti lassus," which, we are told, Dr. Johnson never could repeat without bursting into tears, we think he might have pointed out the utterly unevangelical, mediæval theology of some of its lines, which are unfit for Christian worship.

Then follows the *Veni Creator*, the section on which he strangely heads, "Come Holy Spirit, our souls inspire," although it is quite right in the text. Next come "Jerusalem the Golden," Luther's great Reformation Hymn, "Jerusalem, my happy home," "Ken's great evening hymn," on all of which the comments are admirable. Next comes the grand "Rock of Ages," which, with Dr. Pusey, he regards as the greatest hymn in the English language. The text is that of Lord Selborne's (Sir R. Palmer's) Book of Praise, but the editor has altered one line, "When mine eye-

strings break in death," into the form in common use. In a book of this kind this ought not to be done. It may be necessary in versions prepared for public worship, to make alterations in the author's text; but, in a book of this kind, such changes should not be made, or should appear only in notes.

Among the remaining hymns (there are twenty-eight in all) we have "Jesus, Lover of my soul," "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah," "Jesus shall reign," "Just as I am," "Sun of my soul," which the author calls the second greatest hymn in the language. "Abide with me," "Lead kindly light," "I heard the voice of Jesus say," "Hark the herald angels sing;" by which our readers may perceive the catholicity of the author's taste. We have freely noted one or two slight points on which we venture to differ with the author; but we can honestly close his book with warm approval, feeling that its study cannot fail to make the use of our great hymns more instructive and edifying, as well as more real in worship.

SCENES IN HAWAII. By Mrs. Forsyth Grant. Hart & Co., Toronto.

We are glad to announce a new issue of Mrs. Forsyth Grant's "Scenes in Hawaii." The Sandwich Islands are in many ways interesting to ourselves and the writer can speak from personal observation. This knowledge she conveys in the volume before us in a very agreeable manner. No one need now be without a full acquaintance with these famous islands.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL LAYMAN'S HANDBOOK. Hart & Co., Toronto.

We always wish to deal fairly and kindly with every school of thought inside the Church and outside. The present volume, professedly written by an English Churchman, is really an attack upon the whole system of the Church of England. We can honestly say in its favour that it is admirably "got up," like the books of Messrs. Hart in general; but its contents are very little to our taste. The tone of the book may be judged from one extract. The writer says, "The so-called Apostles' Creed, which was not written by the Apostles [as every one knows], neither does it in one respect contain their doctrine," which, we should have thought, every one would reject. It appears that the article, "He descended into hell," vexes the soul of the Layman. This is certainly a strong reason for leaving these subjects to theologians. We may return to the contents of this volume again.

MAGAZINES.—The *Century* (June) has an excellent portrait of Mr. Walter Besant, a good article on London Polytechnics and People's Palaces, some very interesting "Artist's letters from Japan," with charming illustrations, by Mr. La Farge. "Friend Olivia," "the women of the French Salons," and the "autobiography of Joseph Jefferson" are continued. "The anglo-maniacs" is the suggestive title of a new story, begun in the present number, by Mr. W. C. Wilkinson, which promises much entertainment. Not the least interesting among the varied contents of this issue is a series of "Memoranda on the Life of Lincoln" by various hands. *Littell's Living Age* (May 31) begins with the already famous article of Mr. A. V. Dicey, "Ought the Referendum to be introduced into England." The reference is to the custom in Switzerland of carrying great measures to the whole people for their vote, before they are allowed to pass into law. Mr. Dicey does not give a decisive answer to his own question; but he regards it as worthy of consideration. One of the advantages involved in the plan would be the tendency of separate legislation from politics. Among the other articles are "The Land of Calverts," a continuation of Norris's "Marcia," a notable paper from the *Contemporary* on Matthew Prior. We wonder how many educated Englishmen know anything of this famous poet. The *Methodist Magazine* (June) closes its thirty first volume with what it calls (and quite truly) "an excellent number." The Canadian tourist party is taken to Padua, Milan, and other sweet Italian cities, Lady Brassey gets to Labuan, and this paper, like the preceding one, is admirably

illustrated. "A diamond in the rough, by a minister's daughter" is a good story of Newfoundland. This is a very excellent magazine. *The Canadian Church Magazine* (June) holds on its useful course, a good deal of space is given to the "Trivitt Memorial Church." A continuation of the Story of the Jerusalem Bishopric is accompanied by a good likeness of Bishop Blyth. The *By-Stander* for June is a very interesting number. We shall direct attention to some of its topics in another place.

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

MONTREAL.

To the Clerical and Lay Members of Synod.

GENTLEMEN,—We have the honor of informing you that, in accordance with Section 10 of the Constitution, the Thirty-first Annual Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal will be held in the Synod Hall, on Tuesday, the 17th day of June.

There will be Divine Service, with Holy Communion, in the Cathedral at half-past ten o'clock. Preacher, Ven. Archdeacon Evans.

The Synod will meet for business on the first day of Session at two o'clock in the afternoon, and on succeeding days at ten o'clock each forenoon, unless it be otherwise ordered by the Synod.

The following notices of motion have been received:—

The Dean of Montreal will submit to the Synod of Montreal the resolution passed at the last Provincial Synod, "on the Union or Consolidation of the various sections of the Anglican Church in British North America," and also the minutes of the meeting of the joint Committee of both Houses appointed to carry the resolution into effect;

And will move the following resolution:—

That the Rev. and Mr. be appointed to represent this Synod at the Conference on "Church Consolidation," to be held in the city of Winnipeg, on the day of 1890.

Rev. Jas. H. Dixon will move:—

That, in view of the growth of the Church in this Diocese, Section 1 of By-law on Executive Committee, be amended by changing the word fifteen into twenty before the words "Clerical members" and "Lay members."

The Ottawa River Navigation Co. and The Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Co. will issue tickets, valid from the 16 June to 2nd July, to members presenting a certificate, which may be had on application to the Synod office, at the following rates: the former Company as under, the latter, one and a third for all, including wives and delegates.

Clergy—One first-class fare for the double journey. Lay Members—One and a third fare for the double journey.

To Delegates travelling between Toronto and Montreal, meals and berth are extra Eastward, and included Westward.

The Grand Trunk, Canadian Pacific, and the Central Vermont Railways have so changed their regulations from previous years that we have not been able to arrange for any substantial reduction in rates over these lines this year. We are Gentlemen, very faithfully yours, J. Empson, Clerical Secretary. Richard White, Lay Secretary.

At the closing meeting of the city clergy held at the rectory, Cote St. Antoine, an excellent paper was read by Rev. Mr. King, M.A., on the Jews' future:—Rom. xi. v. 2. "God hath not cast away his people whom he foreknew," &c. After discussion, it was agreed to continue the subject, the Dean kindly inviting us to his house for the opening of the session (D.V.), when he proposes to read a paper on Daniel's Vision of the four great empires. On Mr. King's request for results, it was suggested that sermons might be preached on the subject, and that it might also be on the programme at Missionary Meetings, illustrated by lantern views:—Vide, "The Magic Lantern on the Mission Field."—Riley Bros., Bradford, England.

ONTARIO.

•BROCKVILLE.—St. Paul's.—On the occasion of the Rev. Dyson Hague leaving this parish, of which he was the first rector, a meeting of the congregation was held on Friday evening, 16th May, at the Victoria Hall. Mesdames Welford and Baker, on behalf of the St. Paul's branch of the Church of England Women's Auxiliary, presented Mrs. Hague with an address and a celery dish with stand, and a silver spoon. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Miss Dowell, on behalf of the Young People's Association, presented an address and a table cover and table gong. Messrs.

[†]The Great Hymns of the Church; Their Origin and Authorship. By Rev. Duncan Morrison, M.A., Owen Sound. \$1.50. Hart & Co., Toronto, 1890.