

the fraternal interchanges with the Anglican Synod of Huron. The Diocese of Huron has been since its formation distinctively evangelical. The present and the former bishop have been faithful to their professions in this respect. May the brotherly feeling of which these mutual courtesies are an evidence continue to grow.

The Assembly of 1883, from the fine spirit prevailing it, the amount of useful work it accomplished, and the gratifying progress its minutes record, takes its distinctive place in the annals of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

AN EXCELLENT NOMINATION.

AN opinion is entertained by several good Presbyterians that we have too many colleges. They occasionally argue that because other bodies of the same persuasion in other lands have not so many theological institutions as we possess there might be a little more economy exercised in this direction. In support of this conclusion, however, too much is taken for granted. One valid reason for the existence of so many Presbyterian Colleges in Canada is the greatness of its territory. Our Church extends over the breadth of the continent; it reaches from ocean to ocean. Beside this Great Britain is diminutive in size. But are our kinsmen in the faith there content with one or two theological schools? The Church in Ireland in earlier days used to send her students over to the Scottish divinity halls for their training. They have long since ceased to do so. They found the establishment of a theological school of their own a necessity. It is presided over by professors of great reputation and has been doing good work for a number of years. The English Presbyterians have their own theological college. And Scotland, which altogether would make three or four decent sized counties in Ontario, is rich in schools of divinity. The four national universities have each a divinity hall State-aided for the education of students connected with the Established Church. The Free Church supports three theological colleges, and the United Presbyterian Church has its well-appointed divinity hall in Edinburgh. Compared either with the Churches of the mother land or those of the United States we have been by no means extravagant in the matter of institutions for the advancement of sacred learning. There is a good reason for the existence of every one of them. The future may be relied on to justify the foresight of those who have founded the theological institutions for training the rising ministry of the Presbyterian Church in the Dominion.

The strenuous efforts put forth for the extension of the Presbyterian branch of the Christian Church in Manitoba are in every respect commendable. Past neglect, not wholly culpable, has interfered with its success in several of the early settled districts in Ontario. Care is being taken to avoid similar mistakes in the North-West. Manitoba College has been instituted, and it is growing up with the country. There is strong reason to believe that its growth will be rapid. The requirements of many of the present settlers, and the ever increasing numbers selecting their homes in Manitoba and the North-West make it evident that a theological seminary is a necessity. This is conceded on all sides. This new claimant for support has therefore a right to a respectful hearing.

Hitherto it has been conducted with energy and success. It has had serious difficulties to contend against. Its friends have resolved to make a great advance. They are evidently men that discern the spirit of the time. They have instinctively seized the right moment to go forward.

In the consideration of the Manitoba College report the General Assembly resolved to appoint a principal for the theological college in Winnipeg. The members are to be congratulated on the wisdom of their selection. In the wide range of the Presbyterian ministry there would doubtless be found many who could adequately and successfully preside over the education of the western youth devoting themselves to the work of the ministry. Yet it was not by hap-hazard that the gentleman who has been designated for that high position has been named. As to the wisdom of nominating John M. King, D.D., for the presidency of Manitoba theological college there will throughout the Church be one opinion only. He has given evidence of the possession of the very qualities that specially fit him for the position. He has been a life-long student. Many a good student enter-

ing on a laborious pastorate has contracted the lines of research to the actual necessities of his weekly pulpit preparation. Dr. King, while a most diligent and faithful pastor, has never ceased to be an earnest and conscientious student. He is gifted with a well-balanced and judicial mind. While a vigorous, he is, at the same time, a safe thinker—one in whom the whole Church has confidence. In entrusting the training of young and inquiring minds at the most impressionable time of their lives, there is no room for misgiving. The pastor of St. James' Square Church has given evidence of the possession of another apostolic qualification—he is apt to teach. From the time he came to Toronto he has sought out and been sought after by students. They have gathered around him in large numbers. He has rendered them services some of them will never forget.

Dr. King though in thorough sympathy with scholastic pursuits, is no mere learned recluse. He is no less eminent as a man of action. He has even been a working minister, and the result is that he has a working congregation, with its varied but harmonious organization complete. The earnest attention he has bestowed on the general work of the Church, particularly that of Home Missions, shows that his great activity is confined by no narrow or selfish limits. The hearty unanimity with which the nomination of Dr. King was received by the Assembly is readily understood. In the special interest of Manitoba and the North-West, in the general interest of the Church, the choice may well be regarded as an excellent one.

What Dr. King's decision may be cannot at present be anticipated. He ministers to a large, influential, and attached congregation. The influence for good that comes only by years is deepening and extending. If the tie binding him to an attached people has to be broken the severance will occasion deep emotion. He is also one of the representative ministers in the city of Toronto. It would be difficult to decide whether the present or the prospective sphere would be most influential for good doing. Whatever decision is arrived at will doubtless be in response to the voice of duty.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE FAITHFUL PROMISER. By the author of "Morning and Night Watches." (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)—This is a bijou edition of a widely known and highly valued devotional work. It contains a Scripture promise and a meditation for each day of the month. The get-up of this book is a triumph of the bookmaker's art. The printing is exquisite; and the binding is harmonious, in blue and gold. It is not only just such a little book as one wishes to keep at home, but also one that is suitable for presentation to friends. Its price is remarkably cheap.

ELECTRA: A *Belles Lettres* Monthly Magazine for Young People. Edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn. (Louisville, Ky.: Isabella M. Leyburn.)—This new aspirant for popular favour is most cordially welcomed. It is specially designed, and from the interesting and healthy nature of the contents of the first two numbers, admirably fitted for the instruction and entertainment of the young. Another point in its favour—it is edited and published by ladies. These have in the past proved themselves excellent educators. Success, it is hoped, will attend this literary and publishing venture by ladies.

CASSELL'S FAMILY MAGAZINE. (Toronto: J. P. Clougher.)—The useful articles of "A Family Doctor" are worth the attention of the many readers of this magazine. Here he writes of "Life at High Pressure," and gives a warning to those who try to do too much in too hurried a way. "A Visit to the Worcester Porcelain Works" is well worth reading, and C. F. Gordon-Cumming gives an account of the new business of "Alligator Farming." In the Family Parliament the question, "Is it Wise to Promote Emigration?" is discussed; and the "Gatherer" presents a number of new inventions and improvements.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—The numbers of "The Living Age" for June 9th and 16th contain "Persecution of the Jews" (Edinburgh); "John Richard Green and Henry J. Stephen Smith" (Fortnightly); "Mrs. Carlyle," by Mrs. Oliphant (Contemporary); "Unwritten History," by F. H. Huxley; "Naturalness" (Longman's); "The Central Asian Desert To-day and Twenty Years Ago" (Good

Words); "Absent-minded People" (All the Year Round); "Whitsuntide at Home and Abroad" (Saturday Review); with the conclusion of "No New Thing," instalments of "The Wizard's Son," and "My Daughter-in-Law," and poetry.

THE HOMILETIC MAGAZINE. (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)—The June number of the "Homiletic Magazine" is an excellent one. The opening sermon, given *in extenso*, is by Dr. Bersier, of Paris, on "The Widow's Mite; or The Unreserved Gift." In the Practical Homiletic Section there are a number of striking and suggestive outlines of discourses. In the present number the Obscure Scripture Character, sketched by the editor, is "The Ephesian Chancellor; or, Tumult and Official Calm." In addition to sermons and skeletons of sermons, there is much valuable reading on topics of great practical import. In the Symposium, Professor Stanley Leathes continues the discussion on the "Inspiration of Scripture;" J. Robinson Gregory, that on "The Argument from Prophecy in the Light of Modern Criticism;" and Rev. William Roberts considers "The Revelations of Himself by God to Men." The Expository Section this month contains specially valuable contributions by the Dean of Canterbury, Drs. Dieffenbach and Lindsay-Alexander. Principal Rainy's address on Preaching is continued. This number completes the eighth volume of the "Homiletic Magazine."

SUCCESSFUL MEN OF TO-DAY. By Wilbur F. Crafts. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.)—Another of the excellent issues of the Standard Library series. In the earlier days of English authorship it was customary to write an elaborate and too often fulsome dedication to some nobleman, in the hope that, in return for the flattery, he would subscribe for a large number of copies, and reward the author with a money gift. This degrading condition of authorship has long since passed away. The author's appeal lies direct to the reading public. The form of dedication, however, is in many cases still retained. The admirable little work now under notice contains one. It is worth quoting, because it will at once indicate the class to whom the book is specially addressed: "To young men, in whose opening careers I have a great interest, this volume is dedicated in the hope that it may help some of them to true success." It is a real pleasure to come across such a book as this. Its perusal will not take long; but, if the lessons so plainly taught by it are learned, it will be remembered with gratitude for a life-time. It has a genuine, manly, Christian ring about it. It is quite refreshing, amid all the low and degrading maxims, now, alas, so prevalent, to find a live American anxious, to impress on the minds of his readers the principles of practical wisdom, and that in the truest and most Christian spirit. The book contains a number of vignette portraits of distinguished men. They give an idea of the form and features of men widely known for business success and excellence of character, but it would be an entire mistake to quote these illustrations as models of artistic beauty. There is also a page of autographs, full of interest. Those of any age can read Mr. Crafts' book with profit; but it will be of great service to the young. The reading of this little work to some may be the turning of the tide that leads on to fortune.

RECEIVED: "Jubilee Notes of the Oberlin Colony and College."—"Thirty-fourth Annual Announcement of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania."—"Practical Expositor and People's Commentary, No. 7."—"Canada School Journal," for June.

THE awful calamity that occurred at Sunderland last week emphasizes the danger to life arising from panic. A panic-stricken crowd is one of the most merciless of ungoverned forces. Over 200 young human lives were trampled to death in the wild confusion that befel at the close of an entertainment. The hopes of many homes were extinguished by this sad occurrence. Those conducting the entertainment had for the purpose of presenting prizes to the children in leaving the hall narrowed the exit so as to permit only one to pass at a time. To this absurd arrangement the calamity appears to be mainly due. Until order is taken that all public buildings where people assemble in large numbers shall have capacious means of egress, and that to obstruct these is regarded as a punishable offence, people will continue to be startled by the recurrence of similar disasters.