

B.A. Rev. Dr. MacVicar presented to the graduating class their diplomas. Sir Wm. Dawson, as a man of age, experience and wide and varied learning, then, by invitation, addressed the graduating class in most impressive language, emphasizing especially the importance for them, as about to be ministers of the gospel, of basing everything on the Word of God, and of constantly gaining in knowledge and spiritual comprehension of the Holy Scriptures as a living force within them. "For you and for all," said Sir William, "the Word of God which is the sword of the Spirit, is the first and only weapon, and your motto should be, 'The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible.'"

Rev. Principal MacVicar, in closing, referred to the pleasing fact that the session just ended was an increase over previous years, there being an attendance of 92 in classes of all grades, and that by the good providence of God the health of professors and students had been excellent, and the work of the session satisfactory throughout. The graduating class numbered fifteen and with that addition, the roll of the alumni now numbered two hundred and sixteen, a degree of progress most gratifying to all the friends and patrons of the college. Reference was made by the learned Principal to a valuable addition of 188 columns which had been made to the library during the past year. "We wish," he said, in closing—and it is the wish of all our professors in all our colleges, and scarcely anything is more important—"We wish to see the growth of the library keep pace with that of other departments, and we should therefore be specially pleased to have funds placed at our disposal to enable us to purchase recent and most necessary works."

The doxology was then sung by all present and the Rev. Dr. Campbell pronounced the benediction, thus bringing a most memorable convocation to a close.

THE RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER.

IN our country the religious newspaper has not yet attained that prominent place and power for good which it occupies in the United States. The matter needs therefore to be kept before the public mind and advocated. We accordingly republish with pleasure the following article on this subject from the *Independent* on the Religious Newspaper. In the closing paragraph substitute CANADA PRESBYTERIAN for *Independent*, and twenty-three for forty-six years and it will truly apply to this journal.—ED.]

The increase and dissemination of knowledge are the idea and wonder of the age. Information from the ends of the earth is gathered, collated, illustrated, explained and spread broadcast in the newspaper. There is no family so poor or so obscure that it may not have the benefit of the wealth of intelligence of which the newspaper is the alert purveyor. For a trifling sum any one may enjoy a full course of lectures, a series of sermons, an hour with the poets, an evening with several capital story-tellers; may hear what the best authors of the age have to say in books; what doctors learned in theology, the law, political economy, science, art, music, and other departments of human knowledge, have to impart; what the sage and philosopher has evolved and added to the store of human wisdom; what the skilful literary artist can create to delight the imagination and cultivate the taste; what tidings the missionary in remote lands has to relate; what experts in finance, insurance and all lines of business can tell of interest and importance; what men of experience can suggest to help the farmer, the dairyman, the housewife, and all who have rural occupations; what events and changes are taking place among the Governments and peoples of the world as seen, described and explained by trained observers.

In short, those who have few books, may, in the religious newspaper receive regularly a whole library of choice literature of the freshest character, ranging over the world and embracing the most important topics. There will be something appropriate, improving and entertaining for every member of the family, with nothing contrary to morals, injurious to the Christian faith, or opposed to what is pure and helpful and wholesome.

The Faculty of a university sit as teachers around every fireside where such a newspaper is read. Parents who want to cultivate in their families a thirst for knowledge, a taste for pure literature, a preference for that which elevates, ennobles, improves, a deeper reverence for the Christian faith, a broader and more serious view of the duty of man to man and

man to God, may introduce such an influence into their homes by an outlay of less than six cents a week.

These are hard times. It must be so, for everybody says so. Naturally prudent people practice economy. That is praiseworthy, provided it is done wisely. The mere luxuries should be the first to be cut off; but be careful that you do not class necessities among luxuries. The education of your children you cannot afford to abridge; the support of your church and its various lines of work you must not lessen; and your religious newspaper, the cheapest and one of the most useful and valuable things you get, it would be sheer folly to sacrifice. It is worth to you many times the sum you pay for it. It will reimburse you in manifold forms, again and again, in recreation, instruction, suggestion, encouragement, improvement. It is a silent, but constant and powerful influence for good. You need the food it provides for mind and soul as much as you need meat and bread and drink for your physical welfare.

We speak of an ideal religious newspaper. It is toward this ideal the *Independent* has been steadily aiming for these forty-six years. Not although we had already attained, either were already perfect or satisfied, do we speak; but as having been constant in our endeavor, and expecting yet to reach far higher things. As to the past and present we are willing to be judged by the record of these columns and to have comparisons made.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S S. S. COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee met in the Board Room of the Y. M. C. A. on Tuesday, April 3rd. Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, St. John, N.B., convener, presided.

The Rev. J. W. Rae was appointed secretary. The financial statement submitted by the convener showed the receipts for the past eleven months to be \$1,661.61 and its expenditure to be \$2,759.34, leaving a deficit of \$1,097.73. This consists of arrears and accounts from last year, together with the necessary outlay in establishing the Home Study and Teachers' Preparation Leaflets. The circulation of these is steadily growing and there is every reason to expect that after next December they will be a source of revenue instead of a burden. A vigorous effort was resolved upon to wipe out this deficit and the friends of the work are to be asked for a special effort towards this end. The committee believe that if they can come to the Assembly this year with a balance on the right side, there will be no occasion for any deficits in the future. A hearty response now will relieve them of all future embarrassments. Rev. J. W. Rae was appointed to make the appeal resolved upon.

The sum of \$1,007.48 has been received in contributions from Sabbath Schools, being an increase of more than 50 per cent. over last year.

The report of the last examinations held under the Scheme of Higher Religious Instruction showed that 1,483 question papers had been called for, but that only 295 had come up to the examination. Of these 103 were in the Biblical Department, 126 in the Doctrinal, 31 in the History, and 35 in the Essay Department. Fourteen medals were taken, 73 prizes and 149 diplomas.

A communication was read from the Presbyterian S. S. Association of Montreal, regarding Syllabus and Schedule of questions for statistical returns. Both these subjects were carefully and minutely discussed. One question was omitted from the Schedule and the phraseology of two others modified, but no other change in either documents was deemed advisable.

The Convener intimated his desire to be relieved of the duties of Convener, and, after discussion, it was resolved to ask the General Assembly to divide the work under the charge of the Committee with departments.

1. Publications and Finances under charge of Convener.
 2. Higher Religious Instruction under Rev. M. W. Farquharson as Vice-Convener.
 3. Statistics under J. W. Rae, as Vice-Convener.
- A Committee was appointed to select a list of prize-books from which successful candidates may choose.

A Committee with Rev. J. McP. Scott as Convener was appointed to prepare a Foreign Mission service for next "Children's Day," and requested to submit the same to a meeting to be held at the General Assembly.

Books and Magazines.

HOW TO BRING MEN TO CHRIST. By R. A. Torrey. Fleming H. Revell Co., Willard Tract Repository, Toronto.

The author of this book is the superintendent of the Chicago Bible Institute, founded by Mr. Moody for the training of Christian workers. This book is the product of his own large experience, as well as that of others engaged in the work of winning souls. Mr. Torrey tells, in a very simple and earnest way, the conditions of success in this work—how to begin it, and how carry it on. He describes the different classes of people whom Christian workers are apt to meet; the best way to deal with them, and gives the scripture texts that have proved effective in subduing enmity and indifference, and leading sinners to surrender to Christ, and receive Him as their Lord. The lessons here gathered from such wide and successful experience cannot fail to be helpful to those who are seeking to save the lost; and this little book well deserves to be in the hands of every earnest Christian worker. It will not only aid him in dealing with others, but will refresh and stimulate his own soul. The chapters on "The Conditions of Success," and the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit," are peculiarly impressive, and calculated to stir up all who desire, like the Master, to be "Anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power," that they may go about "doing good and healing those that are oppressed of the devil, having God with them."

Reality versus Romance in South Central Africa. This is an account of a journey across the continent from Binguella on the west to the mouth of the Zambesi on the east coast, by James Johnston, M.D. This book is in the first place a delight to the eye to look at and handle, the quality of the paper, its binding, the large clear type and broad margin satisfy the book lover. In addition, in the course of its three hundred and fifty pages, it contains fifty-one very beautifully executed photogravure illustrations, which add much to the beauty and value of the work, and last, but not least, a large, clear, well-executed map of the route pursued by the traveller from one end of the journey to the other. Two sentences tell of the author's motive for making his expedition and the spirit in which his account is given. "I wished to see for myself the actual condition of the African that I might be the better able to plead his cause among English-speaking people, who have, particularly during this century, proven themselves above all other nations the pioneers of civilization, Christianity and humane government." The author of this narrative of African exploration has been governed by two considerations only in his work: first, the obtaining of absolutely correct information concerning that portion of the "Dark Continent" which was the field of his investigations; second, the presentation of that knowledge in these pages with rigid adherence to truth. When to this we add that the book is written in an attractive style, carrying the reader on from page to page we have all the elements of a first-rate book of travel. The W. J. Gage Co. (Ltd), Toronto.

The first article in the *Century* for April is of a unique kind: a story of "From the Old Home to the New," in America told entirely in pictures by Andre Castaigne. Very striking and graphic indeed. Mark Twain continues his story of Pudd'nhead Wilson. This number is strong in papers of adventure, including, under the title of "Driven out of Tibet," Mr. Woodville Rockhill's account of his attempt to pass from China through Tibet into India, a narrative very fully illustrated. There is also in the Artists' Adventures Series, an account of a balloon ascension by Robert V. V. Sewell, the American painter; and William Henry Bishop contributes a unique paper on "Hunting an Abandoned Farm in Connecticut," giving his mildly flavored adventures in search of what proves to be very scarce game. Important articles are, Lincoln's Literary Experiments, being a lecture and verses of the famous President, hitherto unpublished; "A Comet Finder," an account of the work and discoveries of William R. Burks; "Wild Flowers of English Speech in America," by Edward Eggleston, and contains an account of the enrichment of our language by the adoption of words indigenous in the United States. We can only mention as other articles which will be read with interest, "A Summer Month in a Welsh Village," "The Supply at St. Agatha's," by the author of "Gates Ajar," "Gods of India," and "Out of Sight, Out of Mind," an account of methods of Sewage Disposal. The Century Company, New York.

The Canadian Magazine for April has a large and varied assortment of interesting articles. We are glad to notice that a considerable number of them are on strictly Canadian subjects. This is one of the ways by which we can create a Canadian literature. Of this sort are the following: "In Northern Wilds," a new narrative of travel in the far north, by William Ogilvie, F.R.C.S. It is well illustrated and full of facts and incidents. "In the Lumber Woods," also illustrated, is by E. C. Grant and Alan Sullivan. "A Forgotten Northern Fortress," illustrated, is by Lieutenant-Governor Schultz. There is also an interesting article upon Sir Oliver Mowat, with photos of the doughty Premier at different periods of his life. "The Evolution of Self-Government in the Colonies," is from the pen of the Hon. David Mills. The subject is one of prime importance and anything from him upon it must command attention. Amongst other contributions are "Ghosts and Things," by Edward Worthington; "A Glance at Lampman," by Arthur J. Stringer; "Red Aleck," a narrative of Prince Edward Island Life of Long Age; "In Various Moods," by Rev. S. Lyle, and "The Story of Nurse Edith," by Fidele H. Holland. The Ontario Publishing Co., Ltd., Canada Life Buildings, Toronto.

The Musical Record. O. Ditson Co., Boston. The April number specially mentions W. S. B. Mathew's criticisms of Mr. Tang's opinion of the use of piano pedal, a subject of much importance. We notice also the abundant musical news up to date, two piano pieces, a song by Millard and a list of new music.