

which appears in the pages of the able quarterly, *The Presbyterian Review*, published in New York. He makes a rapid survey of the last hundred years in different aspects, and reaches the conclusion legitimately that pessimism is unjustifiable. Not much time is wasted in the recapitulation of the material advances made during the century, mainly owing to the magnificent scientific discoveries and adaptations for which the century will be noted. That is a story with which every one is familiar.

Even under cruel despotisms the laws enacted are, to a certain extent, an embodiment of popular ideas and sentiments. The laws in force both in England and the United States, a century ago, are now regarded as intolerable. Flogging and torture were inflicted on hapless victims for trivial offences, and capital punishment was decreed for a large number of crimes that now entail fine or imprisonment. Debtors were allowed to languish in prison for years, and had to consort with the vilest criminals. The state of the prisons in all civilized countries were many of them a disgrace to humanity. Laws are not perfect, and even model prisons may have their defects, but one hundred years has made vast changes for the better.

The next subject Dr. Johnson selects for comparison is popular games and sports. The coarseness and brutality which characterized the amusements would not now be tolerated. The kinds of sport patronized by nobility and other high dignitaries are proscribed by legal enactment, and though there is prize fighting and similar brutalities, named sports, that find their admirers now, those who engage in them have to evade the police with what dexterity they can. Bull-fighting still lingers in Spain, but it does not evoke the enthusiasm it did in days gone by, and is less frequent than formerly. Gambling is too prevalent yet, but in past generations it was a passion that few cared to resist. In those days governments sanctioned lotteries for the purpose of increasing the public revenues. This method of deluding people with the idea that they can obtain money for nothing lingers still, and is sometimes found where it never should have been and never should be—in the Christian Church.

Intemperance is a great and terrible evil, but in regard to it the progress is easily discernible. At the beginning of the century the use of intoxicants may be said to have been universal, and total abstinence a comparatively rare virtue. A man, even in any prominent position, who was overcome by strong drink rarely suffered in the public esteem, and the facts embodied in the history of the past show that nearly a hundred years ago clear-headed men were not always the most abstemious of men. The relations of capital and labour are thought to be strained in our day, yet at the beginning of the century, workmen were little better than slaves. The progress of the working man has been in an upward direction. Proper and harmonious relations between employers and employees may not yet have been adjusted, but the time will come when they will be. Antagonism is not, and cannot ultimately be, their normal condition.

Dr. Johnson speaks rather charily of the press. He acknowledges its power and influence while adverting to some of its more obvious defects and its employment sometimes on the side of evil. War is not yet banished, but its evils are in some degree mitigated. If not an absurdity, it may be said that even war is more humane than it was in former times. The sentiment opposed to the sword as a method of settling national quarrels is growing and gives evidence that it will continue to grow. Willing to concede as Dr. Johnson is all that can be said against the Church of the present, he succeeds in showing that religion has made great advances in numbers and influence and has increased in spiritual power and purity. The conclusions to which he comes are that the world, on the whole, is mending; the best cure for pessimism, he says, is a dose of last century; the old faith has not lost its grip; infidelity can never take a wide and enduring hold of the masses; the perpetuity of Christianity is assured; and his last point has a word of practical exhortation in it, we ought to believe in our age, and take the encouragement of its progress, and strike heartier blows for God and truth.

## Books and Magazines.

**LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.** (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This most valuable weekly continues to supply its readers with the choicest and best of current literature.

**ST. NICHOLAS.** (New York: The Century Co.)—What the *Century* is for adult readers, St. Nicholas is for the rising generation—an instructive, varied, and attractive monthly, copiously and artistically illustrated.

**HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE.** (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The weekly issue of this valuable periodical, so eagerly looked for by its admiring young friends, continues to supply them with varied, instructive, and entertaining reading matter finely and plentifully illustrated.

**THE TREASURY FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE.** (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The pastor honoured with portrait and sketch is Dr. M. B. Wharton, of Montgomery, Alabama. The Sermons and Leading Thoughts of Sermons are good, among the latter will be found one by Rev. A. B. Mackay, of Crescent Street, Montreal. The other contents of the number are varied, valuable and useful.

**A PICTORIAL COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.** By Rev. Edwin W. Rice, D.D. (Philadelphia: The American Sunday School Union.)—That this is a meritorious little work is evinced by the fact that already it has reached a third edition. It is worthy of the popular favour extended to it. As Mark's Gospel forms the text of the current International Lesson Scheme, Sabbath school teachers and advanced scholars will find it a very serviceable help.

**THE METHODIST MAGAZINE.** (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The *Methodist Magazine* begins its twenty-ninth volume with the New Year, and it makes a good beginning. Papers of special interest, several of them excellently illustrated, are "Life in Modern Palestine," "Balloons and Ballooning," "On Some Supposed Consequences of the Doctrine of Historical Progress," by Professor Goldwin Smith. A new story by Amelia E. Barr is begun. The Hon. Senator Macdonald writes a paper on "Christian Union." The number is one of great excellence.

**THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.** (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The Homiletic begins the year with the first number of a new volume and an excellent number it is. The Homiletic Section contains the following interesting papers: "The Duty of the Church with reference to the Speculative Tendencies of the Time," by Dr. F. F. Ellinwood; "Darwin's Arguments against Christianity and against Religion," by Professor Warfield; "Tolstoi," by William C. Wilkinson, D.D.; "Modern Roman Catholicism," by Professor George H. Shodde, Ph.D. The Sermonic and other sections are replete with valuable and attractive material.

**SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE.** (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—*Scribner's* begins the year with excellent promise. "Castle Life in the Middle Ages," takes us back to a vanished past and gives us glimpses of the life lived in feudal times. "Railway Management" and "The Invalid's World" are both full of interest and information. The paper on "Japanese Art Symbols" with illustrations designed by artists in Japan, cannot fail to secure attention. Robert Louis Stevenson's story, "The Master of Ballantrae," grows in interest as it advances. The other contents of the number are fully up to the high standard of excellence this most admirable monthly has uniformly maintained.

**HARPER'S MAGAZINE.** (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The first number of the New Year opens with "Commodus, a Play," by General Lew Wallace, which affords scope for striking illustration. "Manufacturing Industry in Ireland," by Commissioner MacCarthy, of Dublin, is valuable for the amount of information it conveys. Archdeacon Mackay-Smith's paper on "The Clergy and the Times" is clever and interesting. "Comments on Kentucky" are in Charles Dudley Warner's happiest vein. A new serial work of fiction, which pro-

mises well, is begun by Constance Fenimore Woolson. A number of other descriptive papers finely illustrated, and the customary departments complete a splendid number of this firmly established monthly.

**THE CENTURY.** (New York: The Century Co.)—The January number has two papers of great interest to readers of artistic predilections. Fine specimens of Giotto's work and the sculpture of Olin Warner are finely reproduced. "Pagan Ireland," "Round about Galilee," and the "West Point of the Confederacy," afford interesting and instructive reading and fine subjects for pictorial illustration. The "Life of Lincoln" and Mr. Kennan's Siberian experiences are absorbingly interesting and are remarkably well told. In fiction the number is specially strong. The Canadian story, "Romance of Dollard," and G. W. Cable's "Strange True Stories of Louisiana" are admirable, and then there are clever short stories, poems, and the usual attractive features of this magnificent monthly.

**PRACTICAL RELIGION.** A Help for the Common Days. By J. R. Miller, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—It is not necessary to speak of this new book further than to say that it is designed to be a companion to the author's "Week-Day Religion," which has met with such kindly and continued favour. "Practical Religion" is meant to help its readers to live out the religion of Jesus Christ in their daily common lives. It consists of twenty-six chapters, the titles of which will give a fair idea of the scope of the book: The Sweet Odour of Prayer, The Blessing of Quietness, Ye Have Done It Unto Me, Transformed by Beholding, Being Christians on Week Days, Compensation in Life, The Cost of Being a Blessing, Life as a Ladder, Seeds of Light, Looking at the Right Side, For Better or Worse, "Doe Ye Nexte Thyng," People as Means of Grace, Shall We Worry? A Word about Temper, Forward and Not Back, The Duty of Forgetting Sorrow, People Who Fail, Living Victoriously, Shut In, Helpful People Tired Feet, Hands, A Study, Learning our Lessons, Broken Lives, Coming to the End.

**THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.** (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—If the *Atlantic Monthly* continues throughout 1889 to give its readers as charming a variety of really good articles as appear in its January number, both editor and public are to be congratulated. Mr. James's new novel "The Tragic Muse" opens the number most worthily; the editor, Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich, has a poem of the Gloucester fisher-folk, "Alec Yeaton's Son;" Margaret Deland, author of "John Ward, Preacher," contributes a short story called "Mr. Tommy Dove." "Palm Sunday in Puebla de los Angeles" is described by F. Hopkinson Smith. Never without some papers which are sterling contributions to political and social science, the *Atlantic* has for equipment in this department, "A Difficult Problem in Politics," by Frank Gaylord Cook, and one of Lillie Chace Wyman's "Studies of Factory Life." Professor Shaler, of Harvard University, considers "The Atlantic Problem in Education"; and this brings us to Hardy's serial, "Passe Rose," now at the very highest pitch of its interest, and in spite of its mediæval period, carrying the reader onward resistlessly. Papers by Philip Dymond, John Fiske, and Olive Thorne Miller, poetry by Louise Chandler Moulton, and others, and careful reviews of the newest books close this interesting and thoroughly admirable number.

**RECEIVED.**—THE OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT WITH NEW TESTAMENT SUPPLEMENT; (New Haven, Conn.) PEARL OF DAYS; (New York: Wilbur B. Ketchum.) SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER, FOR TEACHERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE; (Toronto: William Briggs.) QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL; (Kingston.) THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE JOURNAL; (Montreal.) MANITOBA COLLEGE JOURNAL; (Winnipeg.) THE SIDERAL MESSENGER OR MONTHLY REVIEW OF ASTRONOMY; (Edited by William W. Payne, Carleton College Observatory, Northfield, Minn.) THE NEW MOON; (Lowell, Mass., New Moon Publishing Co.) THE STABILITY OF PRICES; (Baltimore; American Economic Association.) THE SANITARIAN; (New York: The American News Company.)