

ance, profane swearing, perjury, robbery, suicide, murder, and other crimes, which even to name would be unlawful, are becoming the staple burden of what we have been in the habit of calling respectable journals. It is coming to this, nay, has it not already come? that fathers of families are often-times ashamed to carry home with them the daily papers. Can nothing be done to restrain within decent limits this everflowing, overflowing, polluted stream. It is not that we would shut our eyes to crime or suffer it to go unrebuked; what we complain of is the broadcast sowing of the seeds of impurity by the publication of details in themselves revolting and aggravated enough, but made tenfold more baneful from the exaggerated and pictorial manner in which they are heartlessly and thoughtlessly "embellished." In these days of co-operative Unions, and of Press Associations, might it not be possible to concentrate attention on this subject, and to work out a reformation.

The Rev. Mr. Knight, of Dundee, is expected to visit Montreal shortly. He will be the guest of Rev. Dr. Murray, of McGill College, during his stay in town.

LITERATURE.

TEN MINUTES' TALKS ON ALL SORTS OF SUBJECTS, by Elibu Burritt: Lee & Shepard, Boston, p.p. 360; \$1.50.

"The Learned Blacksmith" has given us many very pleasant ten minutes' talks in these pages. Thirty-seven homilies—brief of course—sketchy, some of them brilliant, all readable. He sits for his own portrait, and is the first subject talked about. He was born in Connecticut in 1810—so he is not so old as he looks. By his own showing he is a "born genius," and boasts that at fifty he had followed a wider diversity of occupation, and handled more tools in manual labour than any other live American. He is too wise to assert that he excelled in any. How could he? The blacksmith's apprentice was a book-worm, blowing the bellows with one hand, reading Homer or Euclid in the other. Before he was thirty years old he had made himself acquainted with nearly all the languages of Europe and Asia, including Greek and Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldaic, Samaritan and Ethiopic. He was a "dominie" for a year and a half, but couldn't stand that. He became a commercial traveller; it didn't suit him. He went back to the anvil. Between times he translated Icelandic Sagas and Samaritan epistles. He next appears as a public Lecturer, drawing crowded houses, and in the meantime becomes Editor of a weekly magazine devoted to the Anti-slavery cause, Temperance, Peace, &c. These, and the "Ocean Penny Postage" became his life-hobbies. In the prosecution of them he visits and revisits Britain and the Continent. He makes the acquaintance and gains the friendship of savans and statesmen, and philanthropists in various countries. If he does not receive much money, he gets flattering

addresses. But what good did he accomplish? Well, the American civil war suddenly extinguished his scheme for "Compensated Emancipation;" but what of that? The slave is free! As for the Ocean Penny Postage, he may not get *all* the credit for it, but already we have the boon—a penny for the land carriage on either side, and a penny for the ocean! As for the International Peace Association, in connection with which he laboured for twenty years, Mr. Burritt found ample compensation for his gratuitous services in the Tribunal of Arbitration which met at Geneva to settle the Alabama Claims.

The succeeding chapters are pleasant and profitable reading—well worth the money asked for the book, for a copy of which we are indebted to Wm. Drysdale & Co., No. 232 St. James Street, Montreal.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN EVANGELICAL REVIEW for July is fully freighted with solid reading. "Theology in the Work and Growth of the Church," by Professor W. R. Smith, is an elaborate and convincing plea for systematic theology as an indispensable branch of education for the ministry. Professor Blaikie's paper on "the Revival in Scotland" takes a philosophical view of the movement. Without going into the details, it seeks for the roots of the thing, and deals with its tendencies and results. "Galilee in the Times of Christ," by the Rev. S. Merrill, shows great research, and is valuable historically.

GOOD WORDS for August has an average number of readable articles, among which are, "A Missionary Bishop"—a touching biographical sketch of good Bishop Pattison. "Beaten Men and Women," by the author of Lady Bell, and Part iv. of "The Great West" by Rev. Geo. M. Grant, the accomplished author of "Ocean to Ocean." The chief attraction of the SUNDAY MAGAZINE is "the Editor's Room"—the last few pages of each number—where we always seek and find some good gear in small bundles.

PLAINNESS OF SPEECH.—A minister in the United States had a negro in his family. One Sunday, when he was preaching, he happened to look in the pew where the negro was, and could hardly contain himself as he saw the man, who could not read or write a word, scribbling away most industriously. After service he said to the negro, "Tom, what were you doing in church?" "Taking notes, massa. All de gemmen take notes." "Bring your notes here and let me see them." Tom brought his notes, which looked more like Chinese than English. "Why, Tom, this is all nonsense." "I thought so, massa, all the time you was preaching it."

A word of kindness is a seed, which when dropped by chance, springs up into a flower.