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TORONTO.

The November Reviews.

Oliphant Smeaton writes the first article in The Westminster Review, taking as the subject "A Gallery of Australasian Singers." In noticing the conditions under which an Australasian poet has to labour, the writer says: "In fact, the Australasian poet in many respects revives the old Greek conception of his office as the 'doer' (*poietes*), or the 'maker,' uniting in himself the duties of the sturdy colonist, the political organizer or reformer, and the singer!" Among the poets commented on by the writer we may mention Alfred Domett, Adam Gordon and Henry Kendal. William Trant, well-known to readers of THE WEEK, contributes "Treatment of the Canadian Indians," describing how the Indians of the Provinces and of the Plains are provided for by the Dominion Government. Incidentally Mr. Trant brings out the leading features of Indian character, and finds that their chief faults are indolence and improvidence. The conclusion of the paper is well worth quoting: "It is argued by many that, figures notwithstanding, the Indians are dying out. Even if this be so, surely it is better that their last words be words of thankfulness and blessings for the good done to them, rather than imprecations and curses against those whom Destiny has placed to rule over them." G. G. Greenwood writes a critical essay on "The Persistence of Dogmatic Theology." R. G. Burton discusses "Russian Fictional Literature," dealing especially with Lermonoff, Tourgenieff, Tolstoi and Gogol. Walter Lloyd is the writer of a paper on "The Philosophy of Nonconformity." Walter F. Reed comments on the late Prof. Huxley, as seen in the light of an evolutionist. W. J. Corbet writes about "Scientists and Social Purity," commenting especially on the views held by Darwin, Huxley and Drummond. Other papers in the Westminster Review are contributed by Ellen S. H. Ritchie, J. F. Rowbotham, Seymour Williams and A. Gilbertson, the latter contributing a short but able paper on "Immoral Ethics."

The Contemporary Review presents as its opening article a paper by Mr. E. J. Dillon on "Our Foreign Policy." The writer finds that the interests of the British Empire would hardly be promoted by adhering to either of the European alliances, at present constituted for European objects solely; nor would an alliance with Russia, however bright it might seem to be theoretically, be without some serious obstacles which do not meet the eye of the uninitiated on-looker. Only one course is left, Mr. Dillon declares, and that course he terms "The isolation of self-reliance." M. Louis Pasteur, the late distinguished scientist, is the centre of interest in a delightful and well-timed article by Patrick Geddes and J. A. Thompson. Count Leo Tolstoi writes about the persecution of Christians in Russia. "Governments," writes the Count, "have continued to pursue their vocation (of obscuring the true idea of Christianity) by creating State institutions, by piling up laws and institutions one on the other; hoping under these to bury the undying spirit of Christ born in the hearts of men. The Governments have continued their labour, but at the same time the Christian teaching has done its work, more and more penetrating the minds and hearts of men. And now comes the time . . . when the effect of Christianity overcomes the effect of Governments." The question of Church Reform is dealt with in an able manner by the Editor, who concludes his paper with the statement that "A constitutional Church of England, largely governed by lay opinion, may be trusted, on the whole, to take the reasonable view of religion which is natural to the nation. And if the Church took this complexion, the way would probably be open for such a union, or at least for such relations, with the Free Churches, as would secure the maintenance of the Reformed religion." Canon McColl writes concerning the massacre in Constantinople, and takes occasion to emphatically deny that the Armenians were responsible for the recent riots in Constantinople, asserting that the life and property of a Christian subject of the Sultan are safe nowhere in the Ottoman Empire. "For him there is no justice even in Constantinople." T. W. Rolleston contributes a paper on Victor Scheffel, the German

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poet. Herbert Spencer writes about Judges and Lawyers, tracing their historical development from the clerical class. Among the other contributors to this month's Contemporary are William Larminie, M. G. Mulhall, Father Tyrrell, S. J., Dean Farrar and Archdeacon Wilson. The November Contemporary deals mainly, we notice, with religious questions rather than secular.

The Expository Times, among many articles of great interest—views, comments, theological and critical articles—has some remarks on Sunday school teaching of peculiar importance at the present moment. They come from Dr. W. R. Harper, President of the University of Chicago, who has given much thought and spent much time in the endeavour to promote the scientific teaching of the Scriptures. Dr. Harper seems to have a very intimate acquaintance with the state of Sunday schools in the United States, and he says that the scriptural teaching in them is as bad as useless, if not worse. This is very serious information, when we consider the practical exclusion of religion from the Common School. Let us hope that things are not quite as bad with ourselves.

The Critical Review has a large number of notices of current works on Theology and Philosophy, all of which are interesting to read for those who affect such studies, and seem to be done by thoroughly competent hands. That great enterprise—the International Critical Commentary—which we have already commended to our readers, receives careful examination, and a high judgment is pronounced upon the commentaries on Deuteronomy and on Romans. Among other books reviewed we may notice Ramsay's work on the cities and bishoprics of Phrygia, Strack's condensed commentary (in German), an excellent series, Griggs' Philosophical Classics—highly commended, as they ought to be, and a number of works of more or less interest.