

It shows the end of unbridled passion, of a wild, masterful, selfish nature. The progress of each generation in wealth and ease of living is breeding many Absaloms among families that have sprung from simple, God-fearing ancestors. They reproduce Absalom's love of ostentation, his personal vanity, his unbridled temper, and sometimes his impatience to wear his father's shoes. Such courses can have but one end, and that grim grave in the dark forest may warn some feather-brained young men of today what the end is sure to be! Simplicity of life, self-control, temperance, reverence for and help—filial help—to a father bring peace; the other course can only bring disaster, and may bring death."

An Important Correction.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—A slight typographical error, in my letter of last week, made me say at an important point the exact opposite of what I had written. As the point is one on which it is very desirable that there should be no misimpression, you will be glad, I know, to insert this correction. By the printing of "an" for "no" I was made to say respecting the Second Forward Movement, "At present an appeal is being made to the churches as such." The sentence should have read, "At present no appeal is being made to the churches as such."

In accordance with the understanding at the last Convention, the work in behalf of this movement has been, and will continue to be for some months, exclusively a private canvass among individuals of larger means. So far, the pledge-list includes only thirty-three pledges privately obtained.

THOS. TROTTER.

Wolville, Oct. 28th.

NEW BOOK.

THE MASTER OF MILLIONS.

By George C. Lorimer.

We have here a bulky volume of 588 pages and externally of an attractive character. Its author has long been known as one of America's most popular preachers and a lecturer of high repute, and more lately as the author of certain works of a religious character. Very few of Dr. Lorimer's friends, we suppose, had ever expected to meet him among the novelists, but the volume before us is sufficient evidence that the author's versatile mind demands and is able to employ many forms of expression. "The Master of Millions," is certainly a remarkable book; it is especially remarkable as the production of a man whose life work has led him into other fields than those usually traversed by the novelist. We are not able to place so high an estimate upon the literary quality of the work as has been done by some of Dr. Lorimer's reviewers. The book, as it seems to us, is open to criticism at many points. At the same time it evinces a wide knowledge and remarkable powers of expression, and it is not without elements of power and pathos. The aim of the author has been evidently not so much to please the reader's fancy as to satirize the hollowness and falsity of the present age. If the characterizations are extravagant and the course of events often most improbable, it must be admitted that the story reflects correctly many of the shams and iniquities which belong to this material age. The book is a study of vice rather than of virtue. One would hope that the picture is made somewhat darker than is necessary—that the world is not quite so full of fools and villains as it is made to appear.—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.25.

Ontario Letter.

REV. P. K. DAYFOOT.

Owen Sound, is a town of 10,000 people situated on the Georgian Bay, in the northern region of Ontario. The location is picturesque, the town bustles with business, and the community is progressive and prosperous. The Baptist church, in the town, is an example of wise fostering on the part of the Home Mission Board. For years, the church was sustained by liberal grants, and good men served faithfully in the pastorate. Then there came a turn of affairs. The town began to grow. The church took on new life, and to day there stands on a corner lot in the heart of the town, a new edifice costing \$17,000, which is a credit to the town and the denomination. It was to this town and to this edifice the delegates of the Baptist churches of Ontario and Quebec, wended their way on Monday, Oct. 19, to spend four days in the sessions of the annual convention of the two provinces.

THE EVENING SESSION.

Was called to order by Pres. J. L. Gilmour, pastor of Olivet St. church, Montreal, the convention was organized by the appointment of a nominating committee and scrutineers.

The officers for the coming year were named by the nominating committee, and formed the following staff: Pres.—Rev. W. J. McKay, B. A., B. D., Stratford. Vice-Pres.—Rev. P. C. Parker, M. A., Toronto. Sec. Treas.—Rev. P. K. Dayfoot, M. A., Orillia. The convention sermon was preached by Dr. Goodspeed from Eph. 4:21, "As the truth is in Jesus." Those who know Dr. Goodspeed, will understand that the sermon was

worthy of the man, the theme and the occasion.

GRANDE LIGNE.

The report was presented on Tuesday morning and was full of encouragement. There are in the Keller Institute 190 pupils, and many others would be there, if there were accommodation for them. During February and March, a general revival of religion was enjoyed, during which ten students were converted. Most earnest work has been done in the sixteen fields of this mission and the baptisms numbered 55.

EDUCATIONAL.

Chancellor Wallace received an ovation when he appeared Tuesday afternoon to present the college report. The Chancellor looked well after his sojourn upon the continent, and manifested a vitality and hopefulness, delightful to see. The report showed that there are students in Woodstock College, 133; Moulton College, 145; McMaster Arts, 140; theology, 40.

It was gratifying to learn that there are, in the various years about 50 young men looking toward the ministry and that every department is permeated with an earnest Christian spirit. It is also gratifying to know that while the government schools are tending to the introduction of manual training this department in Woodstock college is ten years old and has made a creditable reputation for the school. At the evening session, Rev. P. G. Mode spoke on "McMaster's contribution to our denominational life." Rev. J. G. Matthews, late of British Columbia, described McMaster's influence in the West. The last address was given by Rev. J. A. Gordon of Montreal, on Grande Ligne.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

This report is always eagerly awaited in our convention, and the message Secretary Brown delivered has never been surpassed in our history. The income was the largest yet received, being \$41,703.68. It is also gratifying to know that the deficit has been reduced from over \$8,000 to \$4,336.76.

There has also been the largest ingathering in the history of the mission. There were added to the native churches 607. The total membership is now 4,779, gathered in 41 churches, and living in 267 towns and villages.

Five of our missionaries who have been on furlough have lately sailed again for India, and four newly appointed missionaries accompany them.

The native staff now includes 8 ordained and 71 unordained ministers, 87 teachers, 38 Bible women, 12 colporteurs. These carry the gospel to over 750 towns and villages. In the matter of self-support, gratifying progress is made, the offerings of the native churches totalling \$1,533. This means much coming from people who are living on 3 to 5 cents per day.

Our three medical missionaries have been busy. Dr. Woodburne has treated 3,000 patients, Dr. Hulet 1,496, Dr. Chute 3,637. In the leper asylum there were 27 baptisms, bringing the membership of the leper church to 51.

The mission in Bolivia is forging ahead, although the unsettled state of the country has seriously hindered the work. The school at Oruro is self-sustaining, while the school at Cochabamba pays half the missionary's salary. Thus, this mission cost us but \$2,516.72 this year.

HOME MISSIONS.

In Manitoba nine churches have been organized, and fourteen edifices have been erected; while the membership of the churches has been increased by 800. Our college has enjoyed another season of prosperity, having 123 students, and an endowment of \$92,000. The churches have contributed at the rate of \$15.30 per member. The Ontario churches have contributed \$8,154.30.

The Home Mission Report was read by Supt. Norton, and was an inspiring document. The Board employs 134 pastors, who labor in 250 churches; and 56 students in 78 churches. Self support has been declared by 20 churches. Baptisms number 556. Seven edifices were built. Settled pastors have been located on 20 fields where students have hitherto labored. This change from spasmodic to settled work, is already justifying itself. The income for the year was \$27,725.56.

The platform meeting at night was largely attended. Three fifteen minute addresses were given on "New Work in New Districts," "New work in Old Towns," and "Old Work in Old Fields." These were followed by an address on "Organized Evangelism," by Dr. W. W. Weeks, Toronto. The evening closed with addresses on Manitoba and British Columbia by Supt. Stackhouse and Rev. I. G. Matthews.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee reported the following statistics: Scholars enrolled, 36,544; average attendance, 24,858; teachers and officers, 4,126; scholars members of the church, 7,617; scholars baptized during the year, 1,209; contributions to various funds, \$22,712.95.

The report urged very earnestly the appointment of a General Sunday School Superintendent. This was thoroughly discussed, and the Convention decided, by unanimously adopting the report, to commend the appointment, as soon as the man and the funds are secured.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

To this important topic, the last evening was devoted. Three strong addresses were delivered. Dr. Bates, who laid down his long pastorate at College St., Toronto, to become Secretary of the Toronto S. S. Association, spoke on S. Schools. Rev. C. H. Emerson of Medford, president of the Provincial B. Y. P. U., spoke on the work of the Young People's Societies. Rev. V. H. Cowert, of Brantford, introduced the question of Christian Stewardship.

In practical effectiveness, spiritual uplift, stirring eloquence, the Convention of 1903, will be remembered as one of the best in the history of the denomination.

Orillia, Ont.

From Halifax.

For twenty eight years the Infants Home of Halifax has held on its way through prosperity and adversity, doing its successful work which has been humane and Christian in the highest degree. This work has been for the Maritime Provinces. There are now young men and young

women, adorning homes of comfort who, but for this institution, would have either found an early grave, or would have led lives of poverty and vice. By means of some bequests the Home is now in a fine brick building in the south end of the city of Halifax. It admitted 53 children during last year. Thirty were taken out by parents, leaving fifty in the Home. Any churches or individuals who did not respond to the appeal on Thanksgiving Day may still send in their donations to Mrs. J. C. Macintosh, Wilson Park, Halifax. It is an enterprise which touches the hearts of all classes of the people.

It occurs to me that I failed, to report the unveiling of the Soldier's Monument in the Public Gardens. It took place when the English delegates to the Chamber of Commerce were passing through the city. The inscription reads:

"Erected by the Commissioners of the public Gardens in commemoration of the services of our citizen soldiers in the South African Campaign, 1899-1902." The monument is the figure of a soldier rifle in hand, mounted on a suitable pedestal. Added to the address of Lieutenant-Governor Jones, remarks were made by two of the delegates. One of them, Captain Wakefield, paid the highest compliment to the Canadian soldiers. This monument is an ornament to the beautiful gardens, as the one north of the Provincial Building is to that part of the city.

The historic old Masonic Hall on Barrington street, has been purchased by the Y. M. C. A. The shabby old structure, now quite disgraceful in appearance, is to give place for a fine building. In the meantime, a room has been fitted up on the ground floor for lectures. The old building has extended its hospitality to a great variety of organizations since the late Queen's Father, the Duke of Kent, as head of the masonic order, laid its corner stone in 1800, or very near that date. I am writing from my memory of historic records.

Of all the eventful scenes in the old room not one attracted the attention of the whole Province, as did two meetings held there in the spring of 1840. For twelve years Joseph Howe as proprietor and editor of the Nova Scotian, had been fighting tooth and nail for responsible government. For the four last years of this time, he had also carried on the war on the floors of the House of Assembly. During this period the rebellion of Papineau of Quebec and of William Lyon McKenzie of Ontario had come and gone, leaving behind them their trail of blood, their hatreds and conflicts. But Howe kept on his way, holding with a firm grip to constitutional methods. Two years before the meetings to which reference is here made, J. W. Johnston, on the reconstruction of the old council of twelve, had been induced against his own wishes, as he said, to become a member of the reformed council. In 1834 his great talents and notable success as a lawyer, induced the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint him to the office of Solicitor General. In 1840 Mr. Howe moved against Sir Colin Campbell, the soldier-governor charging him with using power to hold back the reform for the obtaining of which the battle had raged for twelve years. At this acute state Johnston and Howe appeared before the public in Masonic Hall, the one charging the other with conduct rash and reprehensible for his attacks upon the Queen's representative, and the other continuing the fight and justifying his course in the long battle for responsible government. This was the first time that the giants met in public. It was the first battle of the series which were fought for a quarter of a century, some of them on the platform, some in the press; but the hottest on the floors of the House of Assembly.

So much for the old hall in which for more than a hundred years there have been feasting, dancing, music and orations galore.

Professor W. W. Andrews, of Mount Allison, discussed the question "What is Life?" He did it well. Last Sunday 120 people went out through a deluge of rain to hear Professor Kierstead discuss the subject, supplemental to that of Professor Andrews—"Does death end all?" The 120 hearers, whatever their opinions may have been, before listening to the lecture, doubtless carried home a strong conviction that thinking, doing and being, do not end in the grave. The talents and learning of Dr. Kierstead find in this subject a congenial field for exploration.

Professor Magill of Ireland, a man of rare talent and ripe scholarship, according to "The British Weekly," has succeeded Dr. Gordon at Kene Hill, as Professor of Systematic Theology and Homilies. An Arts college has been opened in Halifax, near the collection of fine institutions on Liverpool Road, by the Roman Catholics. A new building is being prepared for this institution. Professor Stuckley is at one time Professor in the Fredericton University, is the Principal of the new college. Archbishop O'Brien is a pioneer and leader who avails himself of every message possible for the advantage of the Church of which he is a distinguished champion.

H. H. Blackadar, barrister, a graduate of Acadia College, and son of the Halifax post master, a young man highly esteemed, passed away a few days since; thirty-six years old. The father and mother, who are members of the First church, and the widow, who is a member of the North church, have the sympathy of a host of friends. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Jenner, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Atanage, of St. Paul's. Halifax has suffered severely in the loss of some of its strong men, among them, Mr. McDonald, Post Office Inspector, Mr. Harrington a barrister distinguished for his talents, and Mr. F. Hartt, a young merchant.

The young men—Mr. A. W. Warren and Mr. McPherson who for the past summer have been laboring in the ministry at St. Margaret's Bay, and who have done good work in that field have returned to their work at Acadia. Rev. T. A. Blackadar, it is probable, will settle either on the west side of the Bay, or at Hammonds Plains and Sackville. Dr. Kempton and Mr. Jenner went to the latter places on Tuesday to attend a meeting of the Halifax District Committee. Rev. H. F. Waring lectured in New Glasgow on the Messiah of the Jews and of the Christians, and in Truro on the Bible. On Sunday last he exchanged with Mr. McLean who preached two able and instructive sermons which were well received by the First church. He also conducted the bible class.

The W. C. T. U. of Nova Scotia held its annual meeting in the first Baptist church, beginning on the 6th inst. Mrs. C. H. Whitman of Canso was president. The services were well attended. Miss Wiggins of Toronto, added much to the interests of the public meetings. Her talent for public speaking is exceptionally good. REPORTER.