

belong. It is a matter of regret that this movement was not inaugurated earlier. Thousands of our young people have silently drifted away from our Churches, many of whom would have been doubtless retained had the opportunities afforded by the Christian Endeavour Society been then available. The movement is steadily overcoming the prejudices with which some at first not unreasonably regarded it. The frequent and explicit declarations of the leaders of the movement have had the effect of removing the fear that it might develop into a schismatic organization. The manner in which it is generally conducted has also helped to remove misgivings. The more cordially and loyally it seeks to promote the well-being and prosperity of the congregation to which it belongs, the more effective will be its work and the higher the esteem in which it is held. The Convention at Peterborough was a successful and inspiring assemblage of a number of leaders in a movement that is making itself felt as a power for good wherever it exists.

The Convention held last week in Ottawa of the Ontario Sabbath School Association was also a most successful meeting. Those taking part in it are among the most devoted and able workers in a cause whose importance has long been recognized. Principal MacVicar, at the closing meeting, gave a thoughtful, impressive and instructive address on "The Teacher reproduced in the Pupil," and Mr. T. B. Jacobs, of Chicago, contributed greatly to the interest and usefulness of the Convention. The reports submitted showed that Sabbath school work was advancing throughout the Province with steady pace. Measures were adopted by which the benefits of more complete organization might be felt throughout Ontario, even in the most remote districts. It is noticeable also that a resolution, unanimously adopted, protested against the opening of the World's Fair at Chicago on the Sabbath. The Sabbath school teachers who were present at the Twenty-sixth Convention will long retain vivid impressions of the benefit they derived from their attendance.

A third Convention of great importance was also held last week. The Women's Christian Temperance Union met in Toronto and were enabled to accomplish a great amount of practical work. The best means for suppressing intemperance and the many and dreadful evils that inevitably flow from it were carefully considered. There was no time wasted in detailing the evils with which all were familiar, but what was best calculated to mitigate or prevent those evils was carefully considered. The education of the young in the principles of temperance was insisted upon, the substitution of unfermented for fermented wine at the communion was recommended, and the extension of the franchise to women that the election of those favouring prohibitory legislation might be secured. The attention of the delegates was not exclusively confined to temperance questions. Whatever was believed to be designed to promote the social, moral and religious welfare of the community received cordial endorsement. Like the Sabbath School Association, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union gave their testimony in favour of keeping the gates of the Chicago Exposition closed on Sabbath. The three Conventions showed that practical Christian work was being steadily advanced along the lines in which each of them was directly engaged.

EXPOSITORY PREACHING.

EXPOSITORY preaching when well done is instructive and edifying. It is not so common now as formerly. In Scotland it was customary for a minister to devote one of the Sabbath services to what was known by the name of lecturing. It was the practice to take up a gospel or an epistle or some Old Testament book and make it the subject for exposition in regular course. It may not be advisable to give expository discourses so prominent a place now in the ministrations of the sanctuary, but an adaptation of the plan might even in these days be made very effective. There is a longing for variety and freshness in preaching which a prolonged series of discourses on a particular book of Scripture would scarcely meet. At the same time a carefully-prepared course of expository discourses would not be monotonous. Indeed such discourses could be made thoroughly interesting, and they would certainly be instructive and profitable. Neither can it be doubted that in the matter of freshness they would gain in the long run when contrasted with the haphazard selection of promiscuous themes of detached sermons. Even sensational sermonizing

soon palls on the vitiated taste that craves for the excitement such kinds of pulpit oratory is supposed to cater for. There is but little edification in sensational sermons, and it is not the function of the Gospel ministry to vie with other forms of amusement. There is at the same time as little excuse as there is toleration for dulness in the pulpit.

If a regular course of expository sermons is projected, it is clear that if they are to be useful and effective they must be prepared with conscientious care. They cannot be slipshod without the certainty of disastrous and humiliating failure. Before the field is entered upon it must be surveyed comprehensively and the whole plan thoughtfully matured. Then each discourse in the series must be the result of earnest and, it may be, laborious study. It would be well to obtain the latest and the best results of scholarly research, and effort should be directed to make the discourses luminous and interesting. A mere synopsis of the conclusions reached by Biblical scholars and exegetical experts would be unsuitable and unsatisfactory. The minute shades of meaning conveyed by the original text and nicely-drawn distinctions may be of interest to the critical student, but for the average occupant of the pew they would fail of appreciation. It would not conduce to the success of expository preaching to make it technically scholastic. It would have little value if it were only a reflex of the style and material embodied in the commentaries. There is no reason why it should not be made thoroughly popular in form and style. The most successful expository preacher would be the one who could bring to his aid all the advantages of a well-disciplined and scholarly mind, one whose reading has been extensive and whose touch with humanity is close. In the hands of such an one expository preaching could scarcely fail to be effective.

As Biblical preaching is the best of all kinds of preaching, so this systematic study of certain portions of Scripture by minister and hearers would have the advantage for the latter in that they could gain a more intimate and thorough knowledge of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity as they are unfolded in the Bible. Preaching to be valuable needs to be instructive, and this mode would certainly contribute to the increase of Scriptural knowledge, enable the hearer to have a clearer perception of the doctrines of grace and help to a firmer conviction of the verities of our holy faith. Should the impression be entertained that such a course of preaching would leave out of sight the practical, every-day duties of Christian living, that impression would be wrong. The Gospels and Epistles, indeed the entire collection of sacred books, are filled with truths fitted for daily use. What more practical than the Pauline writings, the Epistle of James and the Epistles of Peter and the pastoral Epistles? It would be difficult to imagine conditions that the counsels, the precepts and the exhortations they contain could not meet. Modern society may be different in many respects from what it was in the first age of Christianity, but human nature, in its leading characteristics, and in some of its minor features as well, is still wonderfully like what it was then. The very truths the apostles taught need earnest and zealous enforcement in the midst of the highest civilization of the present day. The systematic yet popular exposition of these and many other portions of the Divine Word could be brought home with power to the understanding, the heart and conscience of the people now, and as the series proceeded interest would grow and the effect would be cumulative. The result would be mutually beneficial for pastor and people. In due time their profiting would appear. To the pastor the work would be stimulating and encouraging. It would prevent waste of time. He might also be saved not a little anxiety and uncertainty in searching for topics from which he could discourse. His work is mapped out before him and his regular course of study would be fruitful in suggesting subjects on which separate discourses might be preached. It would also be helpful in making him mighty in the Scriptures, and there is little doubt that his ministry would thereby be rendered more fruitful. His people would grow in their acquaintance with sacred truth, and there is reason to believe that in Christian feeling, and practical usefulness, they would be stimulated by having their attention systematically directed to the special aspects of divine truth thus presented. There are greater possibilities in the occasional adoption of expository methods of discourse than are to be found in the selection of a detached passage, the style of sermonizing now so generally prevalent. The whole subject is worth considering.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This valuable weekly keeps up its record for presenting to its readers the best in English current literature.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—Able and varied literature, finely illustrated, is provided weekly in this most excellent magazine for young people.

ST NICHOLAS. (New York: Century Co.)—St. Nicholas is one of the best monthly magazines for young people published on this or any other continent. The reading matter and the engravings are of the finest quality.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—No wonder the little ones are delighted with this welcome friend that comes to them every month. The pictures are beautiful, and the stories and good advice are excellent.

MR. HALL CAIN'S powerful story, the "Scapegoat," which appeared in the *Illustrated News of the World* and since republished in book form, is followed in that attractive journal by a new work of fiction, the scene of which is laid in rural England, by Mr. Robert Buchanan.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The November number has a flavour of Thanksgiving about it. The front-piece embodies an idea in a Thanksgiving story, "The Inn of the Good Woman." There is a second paper, graphically illustrated, on "Cairo in 1890." "Dan Dunn's Outfit" depicts railroad camp life in British Columbia. A third instalment of "Letters of Charles Dickens to Wilkie Collins" is given. Dr. Henry M. Field contributes a most interesting paper on "Stonewall Jackson." "The London of Good Queen Bess," by Walter Besant, gives a view of London life during the reign of Elizabeth. George du Maurier's novel, "Peter Ibbetson," several good short stories and meritorious poems complete a most attractive number of this popular monthly.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—"Evening Colours" forms the front-piece of the November *Scribner's*. The Ocean Steamship series of papers is still continued; this time freight carrying is the subject of treatment. As affording themes for illustrated papers of much excellence may be mentioned "Explorations in the Sierra Madre," "The United States Naval Apprentice System," "The Picturesque Quality of Holland—Figures and Costumes," "The Proposed Trans-Saharan Railway." Then there are attractive papers such as "The Federation of Australia," by Hon. Alfred Deakin, M. P., of Victoria, and "Mr. Lowell as a Teacher," "The Wrecker," by Robert Louis Stevenson and Lloyd Osbourne. is continued. There are short stories and poems of great merit.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The *Century*, in this the first number of a new volume, enters on its twenty-first year of publication. The type is new, the engravings more numerous than formerly, and are of the finest quality. Two engravings, the Delphian and Cumean Sibyls, from frescoes in the Sistine Chapel form the frontispiece. The pictures of scenery in the King's River Canyon are also remarkably fine. The illustrated papers of the number are, "A Great German Artist, Adolf Menzel," "The Players," by Brander Matthews; "A Revival of the Yosemite," and "San Francisco Vigilance Committee." Other papers of interest are "Southern Womanhood as Affected by the War," "What are Americans Doing in Asia?" "Mazzini's Letters to an English Family," "The Food Supply of the Future," and "James Russell Lowell." Rudyard Kipling and Woolco Balesner begin their collaborated story, "The Naulahka," this month. Besides the usual features there are several excellent poems and well-told short stories.

THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW. (Philadelphia: MacCalla & Co.; Toronto: D. T. McAnish.)—This able quarterly presents in its new issue several contributions of great value. The opening paper is by Rev. S. H. Kellogg, D.D., of Toronto, on "Eternal Retribution." The paper is able, scholarly and comprehensive, the writer stating his conclusions with his accustomed clearness, candour and courage. Rev. George T. Purves follows with a paper on "Simon Peter in the School of Christ." "Hypothesis and Dogma in the Sciences" is by Professor Charles W. Shields, D.D., LL.D., and comes next. President D. W. Fisher, D.D., of Bowdoin College, discusses "The New Psychology," and Rev. Lewis B. Paton, M.A., of East Orange, "The Prophecies of Balaam." "The Vocabulary of the New Testament" is the subject of a paper by Rev. J. Ritchie Smith, A.M., and Dr. Nevius, the distinguished missionary to China, gives an account of the "International Missionary Union." Principal Caven contributes a paper on "The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada." The copious reviews of new works in Theological and General Literature are by no means the least interesting and valuable features of this splendid review.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: 86 Bay Street.)—The number for November is more than ordinarily attractive. In the Review Section Professor Wilkinson gives the first of two brilliant papers on the eminent French preacher, Bersier. Bishop Vincent contributes a practical article on "The Ministry and Popular Education." Professor Murray, of Princeton, writes upon the relative advantages and disadvantages of "Sermon Preaching." President Andrews, of Brown University, tells "How Economic Studies Help the Ministry." Some Thoughts on "Liturgics" are given by Professor F. V. N. Painter, of Salem, Va. The Section is suggestive and helpful throughout. In the Sermon Section the various denominations are represented by some of their ablest preachers. The leading sermon is by Dr. S. Schaff, of Jacksonville, Ill., and bristles with striking thoughts. It is entitled "The Survival of the Weak." Among the contributors to the Section are Dr. Alexander MacLaren, President Reed, of Dickinson College, and Dr. Brand, of Oberlin. In the Exegetical Section Dean Hart, of Denver, has an able and original exegesis of the passage on Christ's preaching to the spirits in prison; while in the Miscellaneous Section the venerable Dr. McCosh has a brief paper on "Realistic Religion," which will prove of deep interest to its readers.