

At the last meeting of the Presbytery of London, leave was granted Rev. Mr. Lawrence to moderate in a call to Alisa Craig and Carlisle; similar leave was granted the Rev. Mr. Currie in the case of Aymler and Springfield, and to Rev. Mr. Ross for Mossa.

Rev. Mr. Henderson's report on Systematic Benevolence, presented at the last meeting of the London Presbytery, was heartily adopted and ordered to be printed for distribution throughout the bounds.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Todd, a prominent member and office bearer of Central Church, Galt. The funeral, which was largely attended, was conducted by Rev. Dr. Dickson, assisted by Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Knox Church, and Rev. H. P. Whidden, of the Baptist Church. Deceased had been a resident of Galt for many years, and was universally esteemed.

The resignation of Rev. Mr. Colter, of the Comber and West Tilbury charge, has been accepted by the Chatham Presbytery. The Rev. J. Radford, of Blytheswood, was appointed interim Moderator of session.

Rev. Thos. McAdam, formerly professor in Morrin College, Quebec, was drowned in Toronto bay some time during the night of the 16th inst. After supper he left his boarding house, 50 Mutual street, and went out for a walk with his pet dog, a cocker spaniel. That was the last seen of him alive. In the early hours of the morning his dog was heard barking and moaning on the ice beside a hole near the wharf at the foot of West Market street. Several night watchmen tried to drive the dog away, but the faithful animal would not leave the place, nor stop making a noise. A seal cap was subsequently found on the edge of the ice and it was identified as that worn by Mr. McAdam. The body was recovered at noon to-day. His watch had stopped at 9.25. Mrs. McAdam is seriously ill as a result of the shock. The deceased was 68 years of age and was a superannuated Presbyterian minister. His last charge was at North Bay. He had been living in Toronto for the past few months. Deceased's presence on the bay cannot be accounted for. His fellow-lodgers say that he was in excellent spirits and health when he left the house at seven o'clock last night. He evidently fell off the wharf into a hole at the edge. He had a nasty cut on the left forehead, which was probably caused by contact with the ice in his fall.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The Rev. Prof. Ross, of Montreal, has been preaching in St. Andrew's Church, Carleton Place.

Rev. Geo. MacArthur, of Cardinal, occupied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian church, Brockville, last Sabbath.

The first of a series of sermons on skepticism was delivered in the Oshawa Church by the pastor on the 8th inst. His subject was "The Supernatural."

The Rev. D. Currie, B.D., of Perth, preached in the Presbyterian Church, Middleville on the 8th inst. Special collection was taken up in behalf of missions.

The Rev. J. J. Cameron, M.A., of Athens, will have the deep sympathy of many friends in his sore affliction. Mrs. Cameron's death took place at Brockville on the 12th inst.

There was a large congregation at St. Andrew's Church, Whitby, last Sunday evening to hear Mr. Norman H. McGillivray deliver his first sermon in Whitby, which was based on the text "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." Mr. McGillivray gives every indication of becoming a successful preacher, and his friends will watch his career with interest.

HAMILTON.

The meeting of Erskine Church congregation was quite harmonious. The treasurer's report showed that giving for all purposes was \$5,764. Of this amount, \$1,362 was for missionary and benevolent objects. It was decided to pay off \$1,000 of the debt before August. These new managers were appointed: T. Reiger, W. T. Murray, J. W. Sutherland and W. Johnson.

The annual meeting of Central Presbyterian Church was largely attended and harmonious. The various reports showed the church was progressing. It was expected there would be a hot discussion on the musical services, but the reports concerning them passed with little discussion. The Board of Managers recommended that the Church be thoroughly renovated, and it was decided that the following form a committee to join the trustees and managers in presenting a suitable scheme to the congregation: A. T. Wood, M.P., B. F.

Charlton, J. B. Fairgrieve, J. M. Eastwood, George Rutherford, James Dunlop, George H. Gillespie, James Turnbull and Roland Hills. Some of the progressives want to spend \$8,000 on the renovation. The managers appointed were: W. Lees, Jr., J. B. Turner, John Crerar, H. S. Stephens. Adam Zimmerman was appointed trustee, to succeed the late J. W. Murton.

Our Library Table.

The reviewer in Literature is quite enthusiastic over "Black Rock." He says "Ralph Connor" need not be ashamed of his handiwork. It has rarely been our good fortune to come across a book in which the freshest humor, the truest pathos and the most exquisite tenderness are so freely displayed, etc.

In the biography of Lewis Carroll one may learn how "Alice in Wonderland" came to be published. The author had not intended to publish it at all and only did so on the persuasion of Mr. George MacDonald. The author brought it out at his own expense and expected to lose heavily over the transaction, but it brought him a large income, and was translated. The version of Jabberwocky in Latin elegiacs is certainly a curiosity, and contains such words as "perancicut," "perancuticque," "chortliculare." A student would no doubt be startled if he found the following on his examination paper:—

"One, two! one, two! and through and through
The verbal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back."
"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms my beamish boy;
O frabjous day, Callooh! Callay!
He chortled in his joy."

Literature, among other things, makes the following interesting statement about "The Literature of Christmas." Books about Christmas indeed—mostly pamphlets and chap-books—have existed in our language for centuries, but the "Christmas Book" as we now understand it, is less than a hundred years old. A glance at the literary periodicals of the last century—the Spectator, the Idler and their companions—will show that they either ignored Christmas altogether, which was Johnson's plan, or used it as an occasion for a sermon, which was Addison's. The modern custom, which makes Christmas one of the most important dates in the publishers', if not the literary year, may be traced to American and German influences. Washington Irving, in the "Sketch Book," which he published on this side the Atlantic in 1820, pointed the way to that literary treatment which reached its culmination in the hands of Thackeray and Dickens. Irving asserted his own belief that it was inspiring "to read even the dry details which some antiquaries have given of the quaint humors, the burlesque pageants, the complete abandonment to mirth and good-fellowship with which this festival was celebrated," but in his delightful sketches of an old-fashioned English Christmas at Bracebridge Hall he pointed a better way.

Both the Spectator and Literature are enthusiastic over Kipling's booklet, "A Fleet in Being." One reviewer tells that he intended to give it only a perfunctory notice, but was compelled to review it at length. It seemed to be against all precedent to devote more than a column of a high-class journal to a shilling pamphlet; but it must be. The great present-day poet of patriotism gives a series of articles on his naval voyage. Here is a specimen:—

"The loneliness of a captain's society beside the isolation of an Admiral. He goes on the after bridge and moves some £10,000,000 worth of iron and steel at his pleasure. No man can stop him: few dare even suggest. Then comes the sea, as it did round the Orkneys, and a little roaring 'roost' marked with a few hair lines on the chart—a thirteenth century lee-ward—buffets his vessel with galleons and drives them out of all formation. One never connects a clergyman with St. Paul's but one cannot look at an admiral without speculating on our apostolic Succession of the Sea. With these powers were clothed Nelson and the rest 'Admirals all,' and this particular piece of flesh and blood is of the same order, and rank, and breed, and responsibility. Admiral in command of the Channel Fleet. And now it is peace ('Voe, I have enjoyed my visit very much, Sir.') But if it was, come to-morrow? What would he do? How would he think? What does he think about now? He would go up to the bridge with the flag lieutenant, and the shins would be cleared for action. ('No, I've never seen a Temperly transport at work.') and then—and then"

Richard le Gallienne, an English litterateur with a French name, in a little volume, "In Memory of Robert Burns," published a couple of years ago, makes the following declaration, which will no doubt be gratifying to lovers of the Scottish bard. "There can be little question that Burns is the most popular great poet in the world. Herne and Beranger come nearest to him in popularity, but the language in which they wrote, being less widely diffused, there is no song of theirs that is so sure of awakening heartfelt echoes in any latitude, however remote, as 'Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon'; and 'Auld Lang Syne' might be called the international anthem of home the world over. We fear this little volume of selected poems is not so well known as it should be."

Gregory, the Armenian. By Helen R. Robb. Boston and New Chicago: The Pilgrim Press. The first incidents in this story occur a couple of years before the beginning of the Russo-Turkish war, and the narrative is continued up to the persecutions and massacres which shocked the whole Christian world a few years ago. The scene is in and around "that old seige-rent, battle-scarred Erzurum," in Asia Minor, and the interest centres in Avedis Vartanian, a Protestant Armenian minister, his family and friends. Indeed he is the real hero of the story, although his son, Gregory, gives it its title. Gregory is a mere child of seven when he is first introduced and it is only in the last few chapters that he plays a part in anywise important. The book is full of sometimes pleasing and oftentimes thrilling incidents, and although the author has never visited Asia Minor, we are assured that she has succeeded in producing a very accurate picture of life as it is in that part of the Sultan's dominions. Had it been published a couple of years ago, when newspapers were filled with accounts of Turkish atrocities in Armenia, it would have found a public eager for its reception.

The Story of Oberlin. By Delavan L. Leonard. Boston and Chicago: The Pilgrim Press. Oberlin, one of the strongest educational institutions in the United States, is not unknown to Canada. Its unique history is very attractively told in this handsome volume of nearly four hundred and fifty pages. It originated in 1832 with two men, one a Presbyterian Home missionary and the other recently returned from the far southwest. They were "without liberal education, unendowed with more than ordinary intellectual gifts, and wholly without financial resources," but they were intensely earnest. Their plan was to secure a considerable tract of land upon which to plant a colony of Christian families, and to found a school combining various grades and departments, to educate their own children and those of their neighbors, and especially to train teachers and other Christian toilers for the desolate fields in the West. Manual labor, to enable poor students to support themselves, was a part of the plan. Before selecting a site or the distinguishing features of the contemplated seminary. Before selecting a site or raising a dollar or taking a single step towards organization, the enthusiastic founders decided to call the proposed colony and school Oberlin, after a famous Alsatian pastor, whose biography had been recently published. How a site in the unbroken forest was selected, how funds were raised, how the institution was started, what vicissitudes it encountered, and what hostilities it overcame is too long a story to tell here. It is enough to say that it rapidly outgrew the limitations of its founders and attained the dimensions of a university. The rude wooden structures of its early days have given place to a large group of Halls, Houses and other College buildings, located in the centre of a village of five thousand inhabitants, to whom, during term, are to be added about twelve hundred students. Its growth as an institution for imparting a superior education is shown by the increase of its teaching force during the last forty years. The catalogue of 1889 named a faculty of eleven members, by 1866 the number had increased to twenty, but in 1886 six pages are covered with the names of twenty-nine professors, six associate professors, thirteen tutors, and nineteen other instructors of various grades, making a total teaching force of eighty-seven. The book has many portraits and pictures of buildings.

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