

met with a very favorable reception, and, as we all know, has rendered invaluable service. As the pledges have been gathered by several different persons, the Committee is not at present able to state just what amount has now been subscribed, but will, we understand soon be able to make a statement. Mr. Stackhouse informs us that the churches which he visited in many instances exceeded their appointments, and he believes that when the canvass is completed the result should not fall short of the Fifty Thousand Dollars aimed at. In order that this good end may be attained and all departments of our Mission work may feel the impetus which increased resources would give, it is greatly to be desired that every church will cheerfully do its share toward the completion of the Fund.

—The ground which President Roosevelt takes in his reply to certain citizens of Charleston, South Carolina, who protested against the appointment of Dr. Crum a colored physician of that city, to the office of Collector of the Port, will commend itself to intelligent people generally, as sound and reasonable. The protest embodied certain specific charges against Dr. Crum, but added—"We have sworn never again to submit to the rule of the African, and such an appointment as that of Dr. Crum forces us to protest unanimously against this insult to the white blood." In his reply the President promises to give careful consideration to the specific charges before confirming the appointment, as he does not intend to appoint any unfit man to office, and so far as he can he will pay due regard to the wishes and feelings of the people of each locality, but, he adds, "I cannot consent to take the position that the door of hope—the door of opportunity—is to be shut on any man, no matter how worthy, purely upon the grounds of race or color. Such an attitude would, according to my convictions, be fundamentally wrong. If, as you hold, the great bulk of the colored people are not yet fit, in point of character and influence, to hold such positions, it seems to me that it is worth while putting a premium on the effort among them to achieve the character and standing which will fit them."

### Ministers' Annuity.

A circular headed "An appeal to the churches and benevolent brethren and sisters for the fund that supports aged and sick ministers, their widows and children" has been sent to the clerks of the Baptist churches in the Maritime Provinces with a request that in each case the clerk should lay it before his church. The churches and individuals who have taken collections and made donations in the past to this sacred fund, are cordially thanked, and each church, led by the pastor, is urged to promptly take a collection for the current year. If the 400 churches would give \$1,000, not a large sum for them collectively to contribute, the Board could pay the ministers their maximum annuities—\$200 a year. Will the churches not do this? Surely they will. Especially is the appeal made to the churches which have failed hitherto to take collections. Please act promptly, brethren! Let this appeal have a first place among the claims now before you.

The civil service of the Dominion provides for its worn-out servants: Judges get retiring allowances; soldiers get pensions, and shall not the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ support their disabled servants by small annuities? Each pastor now in active service is hereby earnestly requested to lead his church in the discharge of its duty in this matter. The annuitants are most unselfish in the matter of their annuities. Three widows who feel that they can live without their yearly part of the fund, decline to take their annuities. A brother has taken only a part of what the constitution allows him. Others contribute a part of what they draw to the fund. A letter is just at hand from an aged brother in New Brunswick, who has labored long and successfully, and who must need his annuity, saying "do not send me my annuity. I think for the present I can do without it. I would rather put my money into the fund than take it out." For such self-sacrificing brethren and sisters the churches most assuredly will give willingly.

Please send your donations and contributions to the Treasurer, R. M. Saunders.

On behalf of the Board,

R. M. SAUNDERS, Sec'y-Treas.

### Western Illinois.

BY JUDSON KEMPTON.

Dwellers in Western Illinois are saying that we have had the finest autumn for many years. It seems as though Providence were siding with the people in sending them a mild fall. The delay in obtaining anthracite has thus far caused no hardships, though here and there it may have worked some inconvenience. The dead trees from the grove, which have been very numerous owing to the drought in 1901, have kept the fires blazing in our sheet-iron, air-tight stoves.

For us this year Conventions were on the Mississippi River. First, the May meeting in St. Paul, then the State Christian Endeavor meeting at Quincy; and lastly, the General Association at Alton, Ill. Concerning the latter, I have not seen much mention in your paper. Like the other meetings it was well attended, there being present over three hundred out-of-town delegates. It was not a remarkably notable Convention in other respects; some good addresses were made as usual, and others not so good. No new policies were inaugurated. The financial report of the State Missionary Board was satisfactory. About \$8,000 has been expended in the State. Next year we are asked to raise \$12,000. East St. Louis, a growing community on the Illinois side of the river, and Chicago Heights, are two points of unusual interest. Throughout the state there are many towns, hundreds of them with from 500 to three thousand inhabitants where the cause is very feeble or else extinct. These form the great problem for the Illinois State Mission Board. Secretary E. P. Brand, who has been in office for half dozen years, is a man of great energy and wisdom in dealing with this difficult problem.

The southern part of the state and the northern parts differ from each other as much as Virginia and Massachusetts in their ways of looking at things. One is "south," the other, "north." Mr. Brand has the confidence, in a remarkable degree, of the churches of the entire state. Chicago with its own great city mission work in the past has been wont to excuse herself from doing much outside her city limits, but in recent years, Mr. Brand is bringing even the Chicago churches in line with the state work. In this he has been greatly assisted by Dr. Myron Haynes, a Chicago pastor and President of the General Association. Your readers are more familiar with the men and churches in the city of Chicago than with those in the smaller cities of the state. Among the young men in attendance, from the State, who are regarded as being among our strongest were: Dr. A. K. DeBlois, Elgin; Geo. H. Simmons, Peoria; R. V. Meigs, Quincy; S. H. Boyer, Decatur; H. L. Winburse, Taylorville and Orville Price, Freeport. Nothing impresses one as much, in riding from north to south in Illinois, three hundred miles or so, as the fields of corn standing in rows, innumerable, rank and file, across the level prairie. The Illinois farmer has many things, in a material way, to thank God for this year. Illinois leads all the other states in the Union in the number of acres planted in corn, and the amount of corn raised, and this year the country over, there was raised one billion bushels more than in 1901, the numbers being about 2,589,951,000. Last year while the crop was light, prices were double and more than double the average price of corn, so that the farmer could have the double luxury of grumbling at the poor crop and at the same time putting more money in the bank than he had ever done before. This year the crops are the heaviest ever recorded and the price, according to experts, will be about average, say 30 cents a bushel. At that rate there will be divided among the farmers of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska for corn alone, something like \$777,000,000 and in summing up the prosperity of the corn states of the Mississippi valley we must remember that the value of farm land per acre has increased during the past year or two from 15 to 25 per cent over its former selling price.

I wonder if our benevolence is showing a similar gain?

### New Books.

THE PRINCIPLES OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION By Benjamin Kidd, Author of *Social Evolution*, etc.

This has been regarded as one of the most notable books of the year. The importance of the subject dealt with and the ability and originality with which the author has treated it no doubt justify the claim of the book to that distinction. Mr. Kidd discusses the development of Western Civilization from the standpoint of an evolutionist. The principle which he recognizes as fundamental in the line of physical and social development is that of "projected efficiency." A species of animals survives not merely by virtue of making the present generation efficient, but by virtue of a projected efficiency which offers the best conditions for coming generations. This principle of projected efficiency Mr. Kidd holds to be the true law of progress in the Social sphere. "The winning peoples who now inherit the world are they whose history in the past has been the theatre of the operation of principles the meaning of which must have at every point transcended the meaning of the interests of those who at any time comprised the existing members of society. Nay more the people in the present who are already destined to inherit the future are not they whose institutions revolve round any ideal schemes of the interests of existing members of society. They are simply the peoples who already bear on their shoulders the burdens of the principles with which the interests of the future are identified." This is the principle which the author seeks to elucidate and establish in an historic-philosophical discussion extending through 480 pages. His survey extends from the Greek and Roman military dominations down through the progress of modern civilization, with especial reference to economic theories and to the influence of religious ideas in promoting the acceptance of the doctrine of "projected efficiency." Mr. Kidd's book will demand and will repay a careful reading. It is not

a book to be skimmed over. It must be read and in some parts reread if one is to digest it. But then it is the kind of book it pays to read.

—George N. Morang and Company, Ltd., Toronto Price \$1.75 net.

THE RELIGION OF A MATURE MIND. By George Albert Coe, Ph. D.

The author of this book is Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy in Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. The book gives evidence of a vigorous and thoughtful mind which has carefully studied some at least of those subjects bearing on the religious life, upon which serious-minded young men to-day are seeking light. It is not a discussion of religious doctrine, but rather an attempt to give men help in respect to their personal religious attitudes and activities. The keynote of the book may be said to be that the heart of modern man is hungry for a fresh original experience of the divine. The widening of man's thoughts and the fuller understanding of the world, which have come with the later centuries demand a corresponding advance in Christian experience and conduct. The advance toward the religion of a mature mind the author maintains does not require us to resist the tendencies of the modern mind or even to reconcile Christianity with them, but rather to carry them forward and to deepen them; for when we reach their foundation in human nature we discover that they have a certain kinship with religion and especially with Christianity. While one may not agree with all the author's positions, his work is earnest, reverent and thoughtful, its purpose is to be helpful, and we believe there are many whom it will help to a more assured ground of faith.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.35 net.

BELSHAZZAR By William Stearns Davis.

This is a historical romance, a tale of the fall of Babylon. The author has handled the Biblical narrative and other historical sources in a free and easy way, adopting what seemed best suited to his purpose. The principal characters of the book are Belshazzar, King of Babylon, magnificent in physical strength, in force of will and courage, as well as in luxury, cruelty and diabolical villainy; Cyrus, the King of Persia; Atossa his daughter, betrothed to Belshazzar; Darius, son of Hystaspes, a mighty hunter and warrior, the lover of Atossa; Daniel the prophet, and his daughter, Ruth, whose beauty arouses the fierce desire of Belshazzar; Isalah, lover of Ruth whom the author identifies with the author of the latter part of the book of Isaiah the prophet; Avil-Marduk, the High Priest of Bel, and Imbi-Ilu, High Priest of Nabu. The book opens with Atossa's coming to Babylon, as the betrothed of Belshazzar, accompanied, strange to tell, by Darius to whom she had been denied. According to the Babylonian law, the royal marriage cannot be celebrated for a year, and the year is filled with the plottings of Avil-Marduk against the Persians and the Jews the perjuries and atrocities of Belshazzar, his attempts to destroy Darius and to secure for his daughter the daughter of Imbi-Ilu, the unceasing efforts of the strong and faithful Daniel, the murmuring of the people (who revered Daniel) against the king and his priest-counsellor Avil-Marduk, the escape of Darius from the toils of Belshazzar, the march of Cyrus with his host upon Babylon and finally the taking of the city through strategy and the treachery of Belshazzar's chief counsellor and the commander of his armies, on the night of the marriage feast when Belshazzar was about to make the daughter of Cyrus his wife. It is a story of intrigue and passion, love and hate and war—a maelstrom of human paction, ending in the overthrow of a king and his kingdom. Some of the scenes are picturesquely and vividly described, and there is not lacking a measure of dramatic power. The book will probably have a brief popularity, but will, we judge, make no very permanent impression.

—The Copp, Clark Company, Ltd., Toronto

ARNOLD'S PRACTICAL SABBATH-SCHOOL COMMENTARY on the International Lessons for 1903.

This practical and comprehensive Commentary on the International Lessons has won a recognized place among the more valuable helps for teachers and advanced scholars. In its issue for 1903 it forms a volume of 233 pages and both in quantity and quality appears to be fully up to the standard of previous years. It is published by Fleming H. Revell Company at the very low price of 50 cents.

"The Gist of the Lesson" by Rev. H. A. Torrey, issued by the same publishers, is a neat compact volume for the vest pocket containing the text and practical comments of the Sunday School lesson for the entire year. Very useful to a busy man, as he can always carry it with him and devote a few minutes to the lesson when he has opportunity.

Flexible leather binding, 25 cents; Student's interleaved edition, 50 cents.

Why do we not see "Earth consumed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God?" Why is "a primrose on the river's brim" a yellow primrose to us and nothing more, when to another it gives "thoughts that often lie too deep for tears?" Why do we only hear it thunder, when some else hears an angel? Why cannot I see the violet hue in the shadows of the fence rails? Artists do. "I do not see these things in Nature that you see," said a man to Turner as they stood before one of his pictures. "Don't you wish you could?" was the response. It looks as though the explanation of differences was inside, not outside, and a man's temperament was his fate.—Maltbie D. Babcock.