

Twentieth Century Fund.

THE Epworth League at Wingham has undertaken to raise \$50 for the church debt.

THE Junior League at Bridgewater, N.S., is planning to have the names of all their members placed on the Historic Roll.

ONE of the American exchanges says of the Twentieth Century Fund, "Our Canadian brethren are moving swiftly and magnificently."

THE Young People of the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, have determined to aim at raising \$5,000 for the Twentieth Century Fund. It is a big undertaking, but there is every reason to believe that it will be accomplished.

REV. DR. CLIFFORD, the great English Baptist Preacher, said recently that Methodism had conferred a great benefit upon the country by inaugurating the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund. The Methodists had inspired others to imitate them. "It's a good thing," he remarked, "to have the gold, but it is giving the gold that does the good."

THE Davisville Sabbath School reports that the first dollar for the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund was handed in by Miss Gracie McGregor, aged ten, from the proceeds of the sale of lantan chickens. Another scholar just over the age which permits one's name on the honor roll, has secured \$5 by selling home-made taffy. These are methods that might profitably be adopted by many of our young people.

Prominent People.

BISHOP THORNBURN was introduced to the congregation of the Metropolitan Church, Washington, as "Bishop of India, Malaysia, and the Philippine Islands."

IN the death of Rev. Robert Lowry, author of "Shall we meet beyond the river" and other popular Gospel songs, the religious world loses a sweet singer.

THE Princess of Wales and her daughters refuse to wear aigrettes, feathers and wings, and have accepted imitations made of silk, because of scruples against cruelty to birds.

MAYOR JONES, of Toledo, visited Toronto on Sunday, December 17th, and gave several addresses. He is known as the man who is trying to carry the Golden Rule into business and politics.

MR. D. L. MOORE, the well-known evangelist, died at his home in Northfield, December 22nd. He was a great worker, and probably shortened his days by his intense activity. It would be interesting to know how many souls have been brought to Christ through his instrumentality.

REV. DR. LYMAN ABBOTT has always cultivated the art of using public libraries. He spends much of his leisure time in the Astor Library of New York, before a table literally burdened down with books and papers.

MRS. KRUGER, it is said, makes her own dresses and hats, and never owns more than three gowns or two bonnets at a time. She has always refused to wear feathers, and has used her influence with the women of the Transvaal against them.

COUNTS SCHIMMELMANN, of Denmark, founder of the International Methodist, who is about to return home after having spent some time in reform work in the United States, said in a recent address in New York, at a meeting held under the auspices of the Anti-Saloon League: "In Chicago I sheltered, paying the expense out of my own pocket, more than fifty thousand homeless and hungry men. In all I did not get \$1,000 toward the work anywhere, and spent many thousands for the work in Chicago. It was there that I found more want and desolation

than I did in the slums of London or any other city in Europe."

PIET JOUBERT, Commander-in-Chief of the Boer forces, is sixty-eight years old. He has long been the military head of the nation—its most noted fighter and tactician—and his career in the field has been distinguished by many successes. While commander-in-chief, he is still subordinate to the veldknaap and the president.

LADY DUFFERIN, in her reminiscences, gives some instances of the variations of the English language "as she spoke" by the learned ladies of India, whose European education has given him a little knowledge which is dangerous. The gratification expressed in the following sentence, which was part of a vote of thanks to her ladyship while in India, has something pathetic in it: "You will have been good to us, and may Almighty God give you tit for tat!"

THE newly-elected General Secretary of the Epworth League in the Methodist Episcopal Church is Rev. N. P. Thirkield, D.D., who has been appointed in place of Rev. Dr. Schell, resigned. For the past ten years he



REV. DR. THIRKIELD.
GENERAL SECRETARY EPWORTH LEAGUE, M.E. CHURCH.

has been President of Gammon Theological Seminary, which, through his energy and ability, has been brought to a high degree of efficiency. Dr. Thirkield is a man of high culture, choice spirit, and rare eloquence as a speaker. We wish him a career of great success.

WHEN somebody recently asked General John B. Gordon whether or not he was an expansionist, he replied: "My sympathies go out to the men who are fighting under the Stars and Stripes, wherever they are, and I am not in favor of pulling the flag down. I guess that shows where I stand."

A WRITER in one of the magazines thus characterizes Dr. Cuyler: "It was a rare treat to observe recently the striking effect of an address delivered by Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler along the lines of the old-time power of the days of the gone-by. It was a most superb address. What a wonderful old man the speaker is! What a nervous little bundle of wholeness, rawhide, and hickory whiteness! How his noble soul burned at white heat! What waves of Amens swept over that sympathetic audience! How tremendously he stirred and moved them! Who could believe he was anything but a Methodist! And temperamentally, of course, he is! Long may the Lord spare him to us! Though he cannot hear, he can easily make other people hear, and give them something well worth hearing."

Literary Lines.

THE sale of the late William Morris's library in London recently realized almost \$60,000.

MRS. JULIA DENT GRANT, widow of Gen. U. S. Grant, has about completed her personal memoirs, upon which she has been engaged for nearly ten years.

MARGARET SANISTER, who last June resigned from the editorship of *Harper's Bazar*, will be employed in editing the manuscripts of the firm, and also upon a department of the *Ladies' Home Journal*.

"THERE is one characteristic about Crowell's books," a well-known bookseller remarked recently, "everyone seems to have a mission or a right for existence. It is rare that a Crowell book will not sell next year and the year after as well as on publication day."

AS a proof of his cordial sympathy with the cause of bird protection, the poet laureate, Mr. Alfred Austin, has written a special poem for the Christmas card which the Society for the Protection of Birds is issuing this year. It is entitled, "Peace and Good-will to the Birds."

THE author of "No. 5 John Street," which took the reading world by storm early in the year, is meditating a new book. Mr. Whiteing has spent several years in Paris as correspondent of an English journal, and his new volume will consist of papers on life in the French capital.

REV. F. B. MEYER's opinion of the moral and spiritual value of Rudyard Kipling's books is indicated by the fact that, as he told the people at Northfield, he had pitched a copy of one of his novels into the sea after reading a few chapters in it on his journey across the Atlantic.

ZION'S Herald is of the opinion that "There are few sweeter anticipations, to one who loves and appreciates good literature, than the evening hours spent with some new book. Under the soft lamplight he enters into a new and changing world, full of delight and inspiration to mind and soul."

McClure's Magazine commences in the December number a new life of Christ by Ian MacLaren, which promises to be of unusual interest. It is to be illustrated by a number of very fine pictures. This is a new departure in magazine enterprise, but it is one that will be appreciated by a large part of the reading public. McClure's is probably the best of the cheap magazines.

"A good book," says Anna Warner, "whether of fiction or not, is one that leaves you farther on than when you took it up. If, when you drop it, it drops you down in the same old spot, with no finer outlook, no clearer vision, no stimulated desire for that which is better and higher, it is in no sense a good book." This is a good test—that it shall be known by its fruits in our thinking and living, by what it does for us and in us.

Across the Line.

IN the city churches of Philadelphia are 36,000 Methodists.

JAMES CHURCH, Brooklyn, N.Y., raised \$35,000 on one Sunday towards the payment of its indebtedness.

"ONWARD to the CONQUEST of the CITIES" was the motto of the recent Methodist Convention in Philadelphia.

NEW YORK Methodism puts annually \$10,000 into deaconess work, and is longing for a chance to invest more money in it.

SIMPSON CHURCH, Detroit, through its mercy and help department, gave a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner of turkey and the etceteras at the church to sixty-four poor children, gathered in by the deaconesses.