

THANKSGIVING DAY.

We once more remind our readers of the special collection asked by the Home Mission Committee on Thanksgiving Day, from every congregation and mission station of the church. The collection is for the purpose of providing the \$7,500 required to carry on the work this year among the foreign population of the North West.

We are glad to know that there is likely to be a very general and, we trust, a very liberal response to this appeal. By the cordial co-operation of ministers and sessions, there should be little difficulty in getting, on Thanksgiving Day, the full amount needed.

CLOSE OF THE CHURCH YEAR.

We are asked by Dr. Warden to call the special attention of ministers and congregational treasurers to the fact that the church year now terminates on the 28th February. As the books will close promptly upon the evening of that day, all moneys intended to appear in the accounts for the current year must be received before then.

The Outlook, in its last issue devotes considerable attention to prison life and to prison discipline. At the recent Prison Congress, held at New York, at which there were delegates present from all over the United States and Canada, the method of treating first offenders came up. One warden advocated placing these in the highest grade, so that the encouragement to reform should be the greatest. Certainly this is the purpose of prison discipline. The idea of punishment is also present, but it is secondary, and the real object is to effect the reform of the offender, and his restoration to good citizenship.

Literary Notes.

The Story of Joseph, by J. R. Miller, D. D. Dr. Miller here tells the well known story of Joseph in usual simple but eloquent style, dividing his subject into seven chapters which take the hero from his earliest youth to his old age and death; and from this life of varied experiences the writer draws many practical lessons for all mankind. "When a story of providence begins, we never know what the end will be," and it is surely a marvellous leading that Joseph has. Upper Canada Tract Society.

The November number of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine opens with an article by 'Linesman' entitled "Night," "Night on the veldt, and all the winds at rest save one, which every now and then sends a faint warm puff across the miles of withered grass, the uneasy snatches of mutterings coming from a man talking in his sleep. All around dead, utter silence—the silence peculiar to vast spaces—and deep blue velvet darkness resting upon the grassy immensity like a hot, heavy hand; a silence that makes the ears throb with a desire to hear it broken, which is not broken but deepened by the fluttering patter of a meerkat stealing to its burrow, or a beetle settling with a little click upon a sun-baked ant-heap; a darkness that is impenetrable even on the dim yellow shadow of the upland veldt-round, and almost appalling in the kloofs and hollows." Then the writer goes on to describe a night attack. Under the heading "Three Biog-

raphies" are discussed "The Life of Robert Louis Stephenson," "Life, Letters and Diaries of Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Graham, V. C.," and "The Life of Major-General Sir Robert Murdock Smith, K. C. M. G." Other articles are "A Village in the New Forest," "Life in Labrador," and "With the Fleet at Delagoa Bay". The Drawing-Room Comedy by I. Lochart Lang, "On the Hire System," is very amusing. Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

Bible Characters, Stephen to Timothy, by Alexander Whyte, D. D. This is another volume of Dr. Whyte's popular and useful books dealing with the men of the Bible. The author has won for himself a great reputation in this field of exposition. His style is concrete, clear, picturesque; his aim always practical, and there runs through all his discourses a warm evangelical feeling. He makes us feel that he is dealing with living men and that the men of two thousand years ago fought the battle in which we are engaged. Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Poet-Lore, a Quarterly Magazine of Letters, is now in its thirteenth year and continues to supply a varied programme of literary studies and reviews. In "The School of Literature" Longfellow and Browning are the subject for the present month, and the student of English literature will find many helpful hints. Two Shakesperian topics are also discussed in the present number. There are new and original contributions as well as selections from the great masters. One vigorous article by Mr. Swiggett gives "A Plea for Poe" which is worth consideration. Poet Lore Company, 16 Ashburton Place, Boston.

The Nineteenth Century and After. The issue for November is an interesting number of this important magazine; the questions discussed are varied and many of them of present interest. Those who are interested in the warlike side can turn to "One Lesson of the War," "The Press-Gang" or "Naval Fashions"; those who study international questions will find suitable food in "Great Britain and Russia" or "The True Origin of the Newfoundland Dilemma." Present politics are discussed by Sir Wemyss Reid, Rev. Dr. J. Guinness Rogers and Edmund Robertson, K. C., M. P. Other questions such as "Can the Sea be Fished Out?" and "Did Elizabeth Starve and Rob her Seamen?" Leonard Scott Publishing Firm, New York.

The opening article of the November issue of 'The Fortnightly' is "Reform through Social work" by President Roosevelt. He is worthy of such a high office who has practiced what he here preaches—"The highest type of philanthropy is that which springs from the feeling of brotherhood, and which rests on the self-respecting healthy basis of mutual obligation and common effort. The best way to raise any one is to join with him in an effort whereby you and he are raised by each helping the other." There are two articles on "Afghanistan and the Indian frontier" followed by a somewhat weird yet, rather pointless, paper. "The mystery of justice" by Maurice Masterlinck. This writer has a right to the name "mystic" (emphasis on "mystic") if only from this one production. We do trust the Royal pair did not find their tour abroad half so dull and prosy at any time as the writer of this note found the article 'The Royal Imperial Tour' by Edward Salmon. The present condition of things in S. Africa lends additional inter-

est to J. B. Frith's "The Guerilla in history". In 'A Comedy of Proclamations' by 'Diplomaticus' the diplomacy of the Boer war is severely ridiculed as showing incompetency on the part of the Government, and the generals in command. The second article on 'Religion and Science at the dawn of the Twentieth century' by W. H. Mallock appears in this number, but remarks on this series of able papers must be reserved until later.

Mark Everard, by Knox Magee, Author of "With Ring of Shield" This is a romance of 'Merrie England' in the time of Charles II, and the hero, Mark Everard, tells the story himself. From the beginning the book is full of excitement, opening with the attempted abduction of the Queen defeated by Everard. The story goes on to tell of the way in which the hero meets the lady of his fate and defends her by the strength of his own good sword from many plots against her life and honour. We could wish that the author had dispensed with a few of the "Zounds," "Zooks," and "Od's deaths"—the favourite exclamations of the hero, but the story is bright and quite worth the reading. Mr. Magee is a young Canadian and therefore his books should be of special interest to Canadians. McLeod and Allen, Toronto.

The December number of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly is full of the holiday spirit, containing several Christmas stories, including one by C. R. Sherlock and one by Wm. MacLeod Raine. Among the poems are "A Christmas Masque," by Clinton Scollard, and "His Christmas Folks," by Frank L. Stanton. Those who read last month's Magazine will be glad to see further extracts from "The American Diary of a Japanese Girl." Israel Zangwill has an article on "The Redemption of Palestine by the Jews"; and General Ballington Booth writes of "The Personal Appeal of the Volunteers." We are able to mention only a few of the many note-worthy features of this issue. Frank Leslie Publishing House, New York.

A History of Protestant Missions, by Gustave Warneck Authorized Translation from the Seventh German Edition, Edited by George Robson, D. D. With portrait of the Author and twelve maps. This volume is right named a contribution to modern church history. The subject is one of living interest and of great importance. The fact that the book has passed through seven editions in Germany speaks for its thoroughness. The editor, Dr. Robson of Perth, tells us that "There is probably no man living who has a completer knowledge of Modern Missions than Dr. Warneck. They have been his life-long study. Not only the progress of missions, but the question of principle and policy which constitute the science of missions, have drawn from his pen works too numerous to mention here, which command the attention of all students of missions. His pre-eminence in this department has led to his being invited to join the professional staff of the University of Halle, and has gathered round his monthly periodical, Die Missions-Zeitschrift, now in its twenty-seventh year, a circle of able expert contributors." The notes by the editor increase the value of the work materially for English readers. The preacher who reads this book carefully ought to be able to produce many interesting and instructive missionary speeches. Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier, Edinburgh, Scotland.