

good and evil. The first moral need of the city was the abolition of the saloon, and then of the increasing need of homes. The religious need of the city was a thoroughly vitalized Christianity, profoundly concerned with living issues, adapting itself to existing needs and taking hold of men's lives.

A minister from Alabama gave a graphic description of "The Mountain Whites," whose condition it would appear is far from enviable. They are descended from original settlers, the class that was known as the poor white trash in the days of slavery, and those with criminal proclivities who have taken refuge among the mountains. They are quite numerous, simple in their habits, and very poor. Many of them are very ignorant. It is stated that among them could be found hundreds who did not even know what a book was, and fully a million who could not read or write their own names. Illicit distilling is looked upon as a vested right and resistance to excise officers a patriotic duty. The needs of these people are apparent.

Dr. Buckley, of the *Christian Advocate*, made some trenchant remarks on the extravagance in church construction, music and furnishing, on the methods of attracting youth to the churches in which social enjoyment was specially prominent and spirituality rather deficient. The discipline of church members had almost fallen into disuse. "It has come to be a popular conception," he said "that men of wealth have no difficulty in finding ministers to preach to them in a way adapted to their predilections. There are too many cases in which churches resort to evangelistic movements on something of a hippodrome principle, and also endeavour to cover up numerical weakness by union meetings."

Many whose influence is great and whose names are widely known took an active part in the proceedings. Among whom may be mentioned Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, founder of Roberts College, Constantinople, Dr. Washburn, its present president, Dr. Moses Hoge, of Richmond, Dr. Howard Crosby, of New York, Professor Little, of Syracuse University, Dr. Chamberlain, of Brooklyn, Bishop Huntington, Phillips Brooks, Dr. Parkhurst, of New York, and many others. A coloured minister from Texas scored a triumph by the impassioned fervour of his address. The address of Dr. Parkhurst on "The Need of Personal Contact between Christians and Non-Church-goers" abounded in practical thought, made all the more telling and memorable by crystalline, epigrammatic clearness and precision. To all who had the privilege of attending the meetings the impressions must have been very stimulating. The publication of the proceedings in a permanent form would undoubtedly rouse all into whose hands it might come. Such meetings as those that took place in Boston the other week might in a measure palliate the extravagance of its claim to be the hub of the universe.

CONFESSIONAL REVISION.

THE question of Revision is being keenly discussed by Presbyterians in the United States. Many of the most prominent ministers across the border have expressed themselves, some for and some against Revision. The Presbyterians have taken an unusual degree of interest in the matter. From the general tone of the discussion thus far, whatever may be the decision finally arrived at, there need be no apprehension of schism resulting from Revision, neither will there be any weakening on the evangelical doctrines so uniformly maintained by the historic churches that hold by the doctrines of the Westminster Standards. Last month a committee was appointed by the New York Presbytery to prepare an answer to the General Assembly overture in regard to the revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith. The Committee's work is completed and they have made their report; it is to be considered at the January meeting of the Presbytery, which is to continue in session daily until a vote shall be reached. The following is the report:

This Presbytery would regard with apprehension any attempt to remodel the Confession of Faith as endangering the integrity of our system of doctrine. We deprecate earnestly all such changes as would impair the essential articles of our faith contained in that Confession, which has so long served as our standard, and to which we are bound by so many historic and personal ties. We desire only such changes as seem to us urgently needed and generally asked.

1. We desire that the Third Chapter after the first section be so recast as to include these things only: The sovereignty of God in election; the general love of God for all mankind; the salvation in Christ Jesus, provided for all, and to be preached to every creature.

We desire that the Tenth Chapter be so revised as not to appear to discriminate concerning "infants dying in infancy," or so as to omit all reference to them (section 3) and so as to preclude that explanation of section 4 which makes it teach

the damnation of all the heathen, or makes it deny that there are any elect heathen who are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, and who endeavour to walk in penitence and humility, according to the measure which God has been pleased to grant them.

While there are other points which the Presbytery would be glad to see modified or changed, as, conspicuously, Chapters XXIV. 3, and XXV. 6; nevertheless, we prefer to confine our suggestion for revision to the Third and Tenth Chapters, as above indicated.

Furthermore, as germane to the subject which the Assembly has in mind in referring these questions to the Presbyteries, your committee recommend that this Presbytery overture the General Assembly to invite the co-operation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of America and of Great Britain and Ireland, to formulate a short and simple creed, couched, so far as may be, in Scripture language and containing all the essential and necessary articles of the Westminster Confession, which Creed shall be submitted for approval and adoption as the Common Creed of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of the world.

We believe that there is a demand for such a Creed, not as a substitute for our Confession, but only to summarize and supplement it for the work of the Church. We would and we must retain our Standards which we have as our family inheritance and as the safeguard of our ministry and of our institutions. But a brief and comprehensive creed, at once interpreting and representing those Standards, would be welcomed by our churches as most helpful and beneficial for the exposition of what we have meant through all these years by the "system of doctrine" taught in the Holy Scriptures. We want no new doctrine, but only a statement of the old doctrines made in the light and in the spirit of our present Christian activities—of our high privilege and of our large obligations; a statement in which the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord shall be central and dominant.

Books and Magazines.

THE Royal Academican, W. P. Frith, whose charming reminiscences have been so widely quoted, has written two fascinating articles for the *Youth's Companion* on his experiences with "Youthful Models," including Italian boot-blacks, cockney Arabs, and children of the royal family.

LIPPENCOTT'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippencott & Co.)—The special feature of *Lippencott's* is that it gives a number of stories completed in the one number. The issue for this month contains quite a number of such stories by well-known and capable writers. The leading one, "All He Knew," is by John Habberton, and is worthy of his reputation. There are likewise several papers on general and timely topics.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—Not to be behind its other competitors *Scribner's* this month presents a handsome holiday number, while its regular features remain comparatively undisturbed as readers of Harold Frederic's well-written serial will readily discover. Apart from the wealth of bright, short stories and sensible poems, the more noteworthy papers are "How the Other Half Lives, Studies among the Tenements," by Jacob A. Riis; "The Pardon of Ste. Anne d'Auray and other Breton Pictures;" "Contemporary American Caricature," by J. A. Mitchell, and "The Age of Words" by Edward J. Phelps, ex-U. S. Minister to England.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—This most excellent monthly presents its readers with a very attractive Christmas number. It is about double the usual size and is profusely illustrated, several of the engravings being antique in style. Grant Allen leads off with a solid, yet readable, paper "From Moor to Sea," descriptive of Dartmoor, and W. Clark Russell, the prince of modern sea tale tellers, closes the number with a well-told story "La Mulette, anno 1814." Hugh Thompson supplies a series of his inimitable pictures illustrating the old song, "Oh, dear, what can the matter be?" There are several short stories for young and old and good solid papers on "Church Sunday Schools," "Nails and Chains" and other subjects. The number, as a whole, deserves a thoroughly cordial reception.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—Several attractive and interesting papers appear in the December number of this, the foremost of the American monthlies. A series of hitherto unpublished letters of the Duke of Wellington, written during the last days of his life for the first time receive publicity in the opening paper of this number. Joseph Jefferson's autobiographic sketches are racy and readable. Among other noteworthy contributions to the present number may be mentioned Professor Fisher's thoughtful paper on "Revelation and the Bible." The "Lincoln's Life" series has reached a most important period in the great struggle, marked by the fall of Richmond and the utter collapse of the Confederacy. The other features of the magazine are such as will doubtless commend themselves to the vast circle of readers the *Century* has secured. One thing to be regretted is that there is no paper from George Kennan this month.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—In 1890 *Littell's Living Age* enters upon its forty-seventh year of continuous and successful publication. A weekly magazine, it gives over three and a quarter thousand large and closely printed pages of reading-matter—forming four large volumes—every year. Its frequent issue and ample space enable it to present with freshness and satisfactory completeness the ablest essays and reviews, the choicest tales, the most interesting sketches of travel and discovery, the best poetry, and the most valuable biographical, historic, scientific, and political information from the entire body of foreign periodical literature, and from the pens of the most eminent writers of the time. As the only satisfactorily complete compilation of the best literature of the day, it is invaluable to the general reader. It enables him, with a small expenditure of time and money, to keep fully abreast with the literary progress of the age.

THE ARENA.—(Boston: The Arena Publishing Co.)—From Boston comes a new claimant for the support of intelligent and thoughtful readers. Though an estimate can hardly be formed from the first number it would appear that this new monthly will be an exponent of opinions usually described as advanced. As the title indicates, the magazine will afford a sphere for intellectual gladiatorship in the free and full discussion of all the leading questions that occupy thoughtful people everywhere. Moral, social, and religious questions are discussed with great ability in the first number and the announcement is made that leading representatives, widely divergent in their opinions, will contribute to its pages. As an evidence of its comprehensiveness it may be stated that writers from Dr. Talmage to Col. Ingersoll, and all shades between will address its readers. All the more interesting features of the ordinary magazines, tales, poetry and lighter sketches by popular writers will find a place in the *Arena*.

THE TREASURY FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE. (New York: E. B. Treat.) This valuable monthly closes this year with a number rich both in the variety and superiority of its articles, several of which are of unusual excellence and importance. The portrait of President Roberts, of Lake Forest University, forms the frontispiece and a view of Ferry College, one of the buildings of the University, is also given. The sermon by Dr. Roberts is capital and the sketches of Dr. Roberts and of the University will be read with interest. There is a Harvest Service by Rev. F. A. Austin, a Christmas Service by Dr. Phillips Brooks and a New Year's Service by Dr. R. S. MacArthur and Leading Thoughts of Sermons by Revs. Gurney, Glover, Stalker and Gledstone. The following articles are capital in every respect: "Spiritual Power of the Sunday-school—How Can it be Increased?" Rev. E. S. Gardiner; "The Minister in His Study," Dr. Wm. M. Taylor; "Some Temptations of the Ministry," Rev. A. L. Vail; "The Character and Aim of the Society of Jesus," Dr. W. R. Gordon; "Whaling without a Harpoon," Dr. T. Kelly. Dr. Mowbray throws clear light on the International Lessons, Rev. J. F. Avery writes on "Rescue the Perishing" and Rev. J. G. Haight on "Show your Colours." The January number will contain the first of a series of articles by twelve presidents of colleges on topics of special importance.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co.)—Mr. Edwin Lassetter Bynner opens the December number with an article "The Old 'Bunch of Grapes' Tavern," one of the most famous New England hostelrys of the last century, and Mr. Bynner gives an amusing account of the various events which took place within its hospitable walls. Mr. Henry Van Brunt's paper on "Architecture in the West" tells about the difficulties which Western architects have to struggle against, and the new school of architecture which is gradually arising to solve the problem of making art keep step with progress without losing the finer and more delicate artistic sense. Prof. N. S. Shaler, of Harvard College, contributes a paper on "School Vacations," and Mr. William Cranston Lawton writes about "Delphi: The Locality and its Legends." Miss Hope Notner has a second paper on the romantic lives of the "Nieces of Mazarin;" and "Latin and Saxon America" forms the subject of a paper by Mr. Albert G. Browne. Mr. James' "Tragic Muse" is continued, and there is an instalment of Mr. Bynner's serial, "The Begum's Daughter." Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich's "Two Lyrics"—"A Dedication," and "Pillar'd Arch and Sculptured Tower"—have the grace which distinguishes the work of the editor of the *Atlantic*. Besides one or two other articles there are reviews of the "Life of William Lloyd Garrison" and the *Century* "Dictionary," and these, with the usual departments, conclude a number of solid value.