

WHEN IS A CONCERT "SACRED" ?

Where to draw the line? This question is often asked in connection with money-making entertainments held or proposed to be held in churches. The ideal would doubtless be that all moneys should be raised by voluntary gifts, and the church edifice proper confined exclusively to religious worship and services. It might be difficult to apply such a rule strictly alike in city and country, particularly in new districts; but as a general thing it is wiser to be over, than under-careful. A good many curious things are done under the name of "Sacred Concerts." We observe, for one example, advertisements and notices of a "Sacred Concert" to be given in a Presbyterian church auditorium in Ontario, in which there is to be a noted solo violinist; a pianist giving various secular selections; a baritone and contralto in duets from Italian operas; Scottish songs; to give her with a couple of anthems by the church choir; the lady soloists in opera presumably garbed in dresses long at the bottom and short at the top. Is all this congruous with an edifice solemnly set apart for public worship? Where is the line to be drawn?

THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

I am convinced there is a deep truth in the strict view which many take of the observance of Sunday. I am certain that their arguments are wrong—that the Sabbath is not a perpetual obligation; that it was Jewish, and that it passed away with Christianity, which made all days and places holy. Nevertheless, I am more and more sure by experience that the reason for the observance of the Sabbath lies deep in the everlasting necessities of human nature, and that as long as man is man the blessedness of keeping it, not as a day of rest only, but as a day of spiritual rest, will never be annulled. Almost everything may become an object of doubt; but, in the midst of a wilderness of shadows broken and distorted in every way, of one thing I am certain—one thing is real—the life of God in the soul of man. I am quite sure that there is One who is seeking us rather than sought by us, that He will seek and find the earnest; and I am sure that this hidden communion may become an object of actual experience as soon as the seeking is reciprocal.—F. W. Robertson.

STATESMAN FORTIFIED BY FAITH.

John Morley's life of the greatest English statesman of the 19th century throws the lofty religious faith of Gladstone into relief like some mountain peak against a clear sky. It is interesting and affecting to read of this man of simple heart, yet giant intellect, fortifying himself with inward prayer before facing some large crisis or delivering an important address. To commonplace folk like the most of us, it gives a certain gratification to find the virtues of the Gospel thankfully accepted—equally by people of humble abilities, and by men of mighty mind like Gladstone, Browning and Tennyson. John Morley, though reputedly an agnostic, has done justice to

Gladstone's faith; the writing of this great book may do good to Mr. Morley himself.

A copy of the Y P S Manual for 1904 has been sent to every pastor whose name appears upon the roll of the General Assembly. Probably some ministers who have been ordained since the Assembly roll was printed have been overlooked, but a copy will be sent to any one sending name and address to the Convener, Rev. W S MacTavish, Deseronto, Ont.

Speaking of the Panama revolution and the connection of the United States with it, the New York Times declares that in that affair the United States is treading "the path of scandal, disgrace and dishonor." The New York American says the United States "should forever forego the advantage of an inter-ocean waterway than gain one by such means." The New York Evening Post suggests the Washington administration has made the Jamieson raid in South Africa "look respectable;" and adds: "At one stroke President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay have thrown to the winds the principles for which this nation was ready to go to war in the past, and have committed the country to a policy which is ignoble beyond words." This is very strong denunciatory language—much stronger than has so far been used by the press of any other country. The defence put up by some New York papers is practically that the end justifies the means.

Literary Notes.

The Story-Brook House, by Honor Walsh. Dana Estes and Company, Boston. This is just the kind of book the children will delight in. There is a thread of story running through, but each chapter contains an interesting tale complete in itself, and of the right length for reading aloud at the bed-time hour. The older boys and girls will enjoy this book as well as the younger children who will appreciate most of the several illustrations.

The Girl Rough Riders, by Colonel Prentiss Ingraham. Cloth, 12mo, fully illustrated. Net \$1.00. Dana Estes and Company, Boston. This is an unusually vigorous and wholesome story, relating the adventures of a party of schoolgirls, who make a scouting and exploring trip, under military escort, through the Grand Canon of the Colorado, and along the Old Mormon trail, through Arizona and Utah—a thousand miles in the saddle. The story contains plenty of healthy excitement, and is of interest from first page to last. Much information is conveyed in a breezy, original way about riding, hunting and camping, and there are some remarkable descriptions of natural scenery.

That finest of magazines of art, The Studio, appears in the October number with twenty-four additional pages. This increase in size is permanent and will make the magazine even more delightful than it has been for so many years. Two excellent articles on Whistler come first in the number; The Oil Painting of James McNeill Whistler, by Oswald Sickers; and Mr. Whistler as a Lithographer, by T. R. Way. The article following these, by Lenore Van Der Veer, on The London

Sketch Club and its Members, is the most interesting that has appeared for some time. It gives an admirable idea of this celebrated club and its famous members, with many illustrations of their work. Art in British New Guinea, the Etchings of Camille Pissarro, and The Annual Exhibition at the Mount Street School of Art (Liverpool) are among the other subjects discussed. 44 Leicester Square, London, England.

Mother Bunny by Harriet A. Cheever, 40 cents. Dana Estes & Company, Publishers, Boston. A rabbit's adventures, told to a little boy by Mother Bunny, the heroine of the story. Mrs. Cheever has the unusual art of writing animal talk, so that it holds the interest of the young reader. It would be hard to find a more tender, sympathetic and wholesome story for children. The account of Mother Bunny's escape from the warren where she was born, and of the subsequent freeing of Mister Rabbit and Bunny White from captivity, is related with much spirit, and the whole tale is crowded with exciting incidents which show the danger accompanying the lives of wild things in the woods. Lessons of justice and kindness in the treatment of animals are taught on every page.

Algonquin Indian Tales, Collected by Egerton R. Young. \$1.25. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. This is a very complete collection of Indian myths and stories of Nanahboozhoo which will find a place in all anthropological libraries as well as delight our juveniles. The Indians of America are celebrated for their myths and legends, and here we have a collection of the finest told by the Algonquins. Dr. Young in his Introductory Note says: "For thirty years or more we have been gathering up these myths and legends. Sometimes a brief sentence or two would be heard in some wigwam—just enough to excite curiosity—then years would elapse ere the whole story could be secured." Concerning Nanahboozhoo, the principal actor in the myths, we are told: "He is the most widely known of all those beings of supposed miraculous birth who played such prominent parts in Indian legends." The book is illustrated by a large number of very fine pictures, and both printing and binding are excellent.

The Fortnightly (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York) is the only one of the English reviews for the month of November in which we notice anything on the subject that has so engrossed Canadian attention for the last few weeks—the Alaska Boundary. This is of course explained by the fact that there has not been time since the decision for articles to be written and printed for this month's magazines. The article in the Fortnightly is by Elizabeth Robins and does not pretend to be a discussion of the subject; it is simply "some opinions of those who cross it," and is very interesting as giving the candid opinion of men who are deeply concerned in how things go in that far-off part of the country. The observation of a lawyer from Ohio is probably characteristic of the attitude of most Americans: "Any man in public life who'd agree to ceding to the British half-a-foot of American soil, well, sir, he'd find he'd committed official suicide." Another article of very live interest is that on The Question of Korea by Alfred Stead. These are only two of the seventeen readable articles in the issue.