

LITERARY NOTES.

The Quiver for September has reached us full of choice reading for old and young. Love's Barrier, a charming story by Annie S. Swan, is continued. There are several complete stories, two or three poems, along with a strong home department, making altogether a very attractive issue of this ever welcome magazine. Cassell and Company, 42 Adelaide St., Toronto.

The October issue of The Canadian Pictorial, Canada's favorite illustrated magazine, is a handsome Thanksgiving number, with numerous and timely illustrations. A serial story, The White Sentinel, is continued; and the Housekeepers' Department is full of seasonable reading. A wonderfully cheap periodical at \$1.00 a year, or ten cents per copy. Pictorial Publishing Co., 142 St. Peter street, Montreal.

The initial number of Vol. II. of the Fruit Magazine reaches our table in greatly improved form. It claims to be "published in the interests of Fruit Growers, Fruit Dealers and Fruit-Consumers"; and certainly it makes a most creditable representative of these important industries. The cover of the October issue is a fine specimen of color printing which will at once appeal to all lovers of the beautiful; and the contents are well worthy the cover. One dollar a year; monthly. Address, Vancouver, B.C.

The October Current Literature contains articles on Roosevelt's Political Game, Maine's Startling Election Returns, The Steamless Battleship Sensation, and Mark Twain as Howells Knew Him. Medical men will be interested in the paper on The Growing Peril of Anesthesia; and all readers will find much to please and instruct in the departments devoted to "Recent Fiction," "Recent Poetry," and "Literature and Art." Published at 134-140 West 29th Street, New York City.

The First Half Century of Ottawa, by McLeod Stewart, M.A., is a handsome booklet, profusely illustrated, containing much interesting matter—some of it reminiscent—about the capital. On everything pertaining to Ottawa our author is well qualified to speak, and he deals with his subject in an orderly way under such headings as the Origin and Definition of the Name Ottawa; Historical Sketch; The Parks and Government Drive-way; Historical Monuments; A City of Beautiful Homes; Streets and the Lover's Walk; The Healthiest City in Canada; Unique Educational Advantages; The Churches; The Horticulture and Floriculture of Ottawa, etc., etc. Our readers who wish to give friends at a distance some adequate idea of the beauties of the Capital of the Dominion cannot do so in any better way than by mailing them a copy of First Half Century of Ottawa. The artistic printing is a credit to the Esdale Press.

The Youth's Companion requires no words of commendation at our hands. It has been a prime favorite with young people all over the continent these many years, and the volume for 1911 promises to be ahead of any of its predecessors, with its 250 stories, without reckoning in all the rest of the contents— anecdotes, humorous sketches, the doctor's weekly article, papers on popular topics by famous men and women. The price to Canadian subscribers is only \$2.00. The announcement for 1911, beautifully illustrated, giving more detailed particulars of these stories and other new features which greatly enlarge the paper, will be sent to any address in Canada free with sample copies of current issues. Every new Canadian subscriber receives free The Companion's Art Calendar for 1911, lithographed in twelve colors and gold, and if the subscription is received at once, all the issues for the remaining weeks of 1910. The Youth's Companion, 144 Berkeley St., Boston, Mass.

AN UNSATISFACTORY BASIS.

(By John McNair, D. D.)

The time is opportune to speak out on the subject of Church Union. The Presbyteries are asked to declare their mind on the question, and it is important that before that be done all possible light be let in upon the question. The question has been discussed from the standpoint of principle, but so far as I have seen little has been said of the Basis proposed. If there be reason for delaying action from principle there is as much if not more from consideration of the Basis.

One would not wish to criticise the doctrine of the Basis which has so many excellencies were it not that the faith of the church is the foundation of all else, and unless the foundation be pure the river of church life cannot be so. It cannot be too clearly said that the present Doctrinal Basis submitted to the church for its acceptance never came from our Canadian Churches. The committee on doctrine appropriated the Brief Statement of the Reformed Faith of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and after making some minor changes and some additions have presented it to us as the faith of our churches. Other statements were before the committee from which appropriations were made.

Now while it would be unreasonable to expect the committee to draw up a doctrinal statement without consulting the faith of other evangelical churches, it still remains true that it is not the statement of our faith. It is not a statement issuing from the inner convictions of the three churches, and for that reason must fail of its end. A creed, to be of any value to a church or cause, must be the expression of the real faith of the people and must be expressed by them. The danger is that these churches would go into the union, presumably accepting the doctrinal basis of the statement, and then find themselves at variance with each other. Far better would it be for these churches to declare their own faith and in their own words. It would be difficult to do and might delay union for some years, but it would be more satisfactory. It is wrong to assume that these churches, after long years of training and teaching on different sides of religious truth should all at once see eye to eye, and enter an amicable and satisfactory union on doctrine.

It is not my purpose to enter into any elaborate criticism of the doctrine of the Basis. The friends of the Basis is that of the seventeenth century, its language is archaic, and its spirit and conception far behind that of the present church. Its statement of God is in the language and conception of past ages; while it defines the divine purpose as universal and defends it against misconception, it fails to declare the full and final glory that fills that purpose and toward which God perseveres.

The doctrine of Election has been left out of the statement, and the doctrine of sin left ambiguous. The doctrine of man, besides being imperfect, will be denied by some and rejected by others. The doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ, while expressing the faith of the church regarding his divine nature and especially fails to express our minds of his character. The modern mind is drawn to Jesus Christ with such a sense of his character more than anything else. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is not comprehensive enough of his freedom and activity. It is in his freedom and impulse and guidance that we live and move and have our spiritual being. The doctrine of the prevalence and efficiency of the divine grace are absent from the Basis and that of perseverance dissolved into the perfection of believers here a statement which Presbyterians will The Manse, Petrolia 29th. Sept. 1910.

QUEEN'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The 19th annual conference of the Theological Alumni Association of Queen's University will take place Oct. 24-28 when the following attractive programme will be submitted:—

Monday, October 24—4.00 p.m.—Paper by Rev. Dr. Clark, Westmount, Que., "The Training of the Ministry as outlined in the Basis of Union." Discussion opened by Rev. Ernest Thomas, Merrickville, 8.00 p.m.—The opening of the Theological Faculty. Address by President Falconer, Toronto to University.

Tuesday, October 25—10.00 a.m.—11.30 a.m.—"The Idea of Sacrifice in the Old Testament." Paper by Rev. J. W. Stephen, Toronto. Discussion opened by Rev. W. M. Kannavin, Strathroy, and Rev. G. A. Brown, Campbellford. 11.30 a.m.—1.00 p.m.—"The Chancellor's Lectureship." Dr. Knight, 3.00 p.m.—4.30 p.m.—"The Christian Doctrine of Immortality." Paper by Very Rev. Dean Bidwell, Kingston. Discussion opened by Rev. J. R. Conn, Napanee, and Rev. T. Crawford Brown, Toronto. 8.00 p.m.—Address, "The New Theology," by Dr. Andrew Macphail, McGill University, Montreal.

Wednesday, October 26—10.00 a.m.—11.30 a.m.—"The Doctrine of the Atonement in the New Testament." Paper by Rev. James Anthony, Agincourt. Discussion opened by Rev. N. D. Keith, Prescott, and Rev. S. H. Gray, Dundas. 11.30 a.m.—1.00 p.m.—Paper by Prof. W. T. MacClement on "Some Conditions affecting Organic Progress." Discussion opened by Rev. Dr. MacGillivray, Kingston. 3.00 p.m.—The Chancellor's Lectureship. Dr. Knight, 8.00 p.m.—Address by Dr. Bonar, Master of the Mint, Ottawa.

Thursday, October 27—10.00 a.m.—11.30 a.m.—"Recent Literature on the Atonement." Paper by Rev. G. R. Fasken, Toronto. Discussion opened by Rev. J. W. McIntosh, Mitchell and Rev. Robt. Herbinson, Toronto. 11.30 a.m.—1.00 p.m.—Paper on "The Church and Social Questions," by Prof. O. D. Skelton. Discussion opened by Rev. D. Currie, Perth, and Rev. J. A. Donnell, Halleybury. 3.00 p.m.—The Chancellor's Lectureship. Dr. Knight, 8.00 p.m.—Address, "Universities and the National Life," by Dr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, Deputy Minister of Education, Toronto.

Friday, October 28—9.00 a.m.—10.00 a.m.—Business meeting. The Programme for 1911. 10.00 a.m.—11.00 a.m.—The Chancellor's Lectureship. Dr. Knight.

The committee will endeavor to provide places of entertainment for the visiting members of conference. It is absolutely necessary that all those who wish to avail themselves of such should communicate with the secretary, Rev. Herbert T. Wallace, Queen's University, Kingston, before October 20th.

At an enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Lancaster, the mayor presiding, on motion of Rev. John Pate, minister of Knox church, it was unanimously agreed to inaugurate a Local Option campaign. An influential committee was at once appointed to carry the proposal to a successful issue. A letter from Bishop McDonnell, of Alexandria, cordially commending the enterprise, and wishing it every success was read. At the proper time a by-law will be submitted to the people which will doubtless carry. In view of such a result would it not be well for the friends of temperance to see that proper hotel accommodation shall be provided for the travelling public, so that in the event of existing hotels (with their sheds) being closed up no injury may accrue to the temperance cause nor any inconvenience to travellers. At Finch, because no such precautions were taken, we are told commercial travellers are avoiding the place on account of lack of suitable accommodation.