

In the great Foreign Missionary enterprise the committee has maintained the important place it has hitherto been able to take. Within the last few years there has been a marked increase in interest and liberality throughout the Church generally. In the production of this encouraging state of affairs much credit is unquestionably due to the enthusiastic and self-denying efforts of the women whose missionary associations, increasing in number every year, now extend from one end of the Dominion to the other. The generous contribution of over \$23,000, which their agency alone has placed this year in the Foreign Mission treasury, is more than the entire Church was in the habit of raising only a few years ago. The reports of missionaries indicate the gradual progress of the Gospel at all points where they are engaged. Well-directed and steady work is being maintained in the various fields, and in numerous ways much good is being accomplished. The year has witnessed the death of two most devoted and promising labourers in the Foreign Mission field, and others have been compelled by enfeebled health to avail themselves of temporary respite from their arduous and trying labours.

French Evangelization has made steady and appreciable progress during the year. The work of colportage has been ably sustained as far as the means at the disposal of the Board would permit, and it is plain that splendid work might be accomplished were this department of effort much more liberally sustained than it is at present. Point-aux-Trembles Institute is doing admirable work and the effort to add to its capacity has been fairly well supported. In engaging Mr. Doudiet to present its claims to the various congregations, the Board has done well, as he is admirably fitted for the special work in which he is at present engaged.

Two questions of general interest only evoked anything like animated and well-sustained discussion. One of these was the time-worn question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. While the returns to the remits show that a majority of Presbyteries are in accord with general public opinion on the subject, there is still a large minority of most respectable and conscientious opponents to any change on this question. The discussion was conducted in an excellent spirit. There was no disposition to deal cavalierly with those of tender scruples, and the manifest purpose to avoid undue haste will afford ample time and opportunity for the satisfactory adjustment of what has for years been a much vexed question.

The other subject which elicited a keen and interesting discussion was the report and its recommendations presented by the Committee on Temperance. Though the able Convener of this Committee was absent, the duty devolving on him was efficiently discharged by a co-presbyter of his. Mr. McKay, of Woodstock, fully sustained his reputation as one of the most earnest and effective advocates of Temperance, and its accomplishment by means of prohibition. The deliverance reached is in the line of that of previous years, and will no doubt be generally considered as satisfactory. The Church bears full testimony to the evils wrought by the saloon, the need for personal abstinence, and the employment of all legitimate educational and legislative efforts for the suppression of so gigantic an evil. The Assembly wisely avoided all approach to the dictation of political action.

The Halifax meeting was thoroughly enjoyable. The good people were unceasing in their efforts to make their ecclesiastical guests comfortable and to render their brief stay by the sea as pleasant as possible. In this they were most successful. Delightful memories of the trip to Halifax will be cherished by those who attended the General Assembly of 1888.

EVERY day school teacher, says the *Interior*, who takes an interest in his or her work, is pleased when the parents or pupils show a sympathetic interest. A parent who visits a schoolroom in a proper spirit is almost certain to be welcome; and a brief conference on the conduct, the acquirements and the requirements of a child is a help and encouragement to the instructor. We commend the same course in respect to Sabbath school work. Parents and teachers can and ought to help each other in the spiritual training of the young. Home instruction and Bible study should be brought into conformity with the Sabbath school system. Friendly conference between teachers and parents will effect it.

## Books and Magazines.

**A MAN'S WILL.** A Temperance Novel. By Edgar Fawcett. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—Those who have been following with eagerness the career of Edgar Fawcett since he first entered the arena of literature as an American novelist, will welcome this new production. It seems that with every new book the author manifests greater power. "A Man's Will" in nowise lessens this opinion. This is a powerfully written temperance story, but is wholly out of the line of the ordinary stories of this class. It is void of all dullness, while every page is replete with sparkling witticisms, striking situations, and beautiful expressions. The conception is excellent, the portrayal beautiful, and the effect most pleasing.

**MY SERMON NOTES.** A Selection from Outlines of Discourses Delivered at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, with Anecdotes and Illustrations. By C. H. Spurgeon. Volume IV.: from Romans to Revelation—cxv. to cclxiv. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—This is the last volume of Spurgeon's Sermon Notes, and it is only necessary to say that it is equal if not superior to his three previous volumes, which have had such a large sale, and which have met with so hearty a reception and with so many kind words from both the ministry and laity, to insure for it a much larger sale than any of the other volumes. Others besides ministers will derive great good and much pleasure from the perusal of these Notes and the filling of them out from their own experience and beliefs.

**ETHICS OF MARRIAGE.** By H. S. Pomeroy, M.D. With an Introduction by Rev. Joseph T. Durvea, D.D., Boston, and Prefatory Note by Thomas Addis Emmet, M.D., LL.D., New York. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—Dr. Pomeroy, of Boston, a physician of long practice, has handled, without gloves, a long-neglected subject. While it is a very delicate topic, he yet treats it with the utmost propriety. A marked feature of the book is the intense earnestness which the author manifests on every page, and it appears that he has written the book because he could not help writing it. He has become imbued with an eagerness to do something to check the stride of a dreadful evil and to rid the American nation of the terrible charge made against it by foreign countries. The book has an appendix showing the laws of most of the States and Territories as to certain crimes connected with the subject discussed.

**HOURS WITH ST. PAUL AND THE EXPOSITORS OF HIS FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS,** More particularly chapters iii. ix. xiii. By Rev. William Scott. (Ottawa: John Durie & Son.)—The apostle of the Gentiles was a profound as well as an inspired thinker. He has exercised a powerful influence on the thinkers of every age succeeding his own. Many interesting and instructive works have been written on the life, times and writings of St. Paul. The themes on which the inspired apostle writes are exhaustless and afford fresh and interesting subjects of study to thoughtful minds in every age. The author of this goodly volume finds congenial thoughts in the Epistle to the Corinthians, and has brought earnest and sanctified thought as well as extensive scholarship to his investigation. He possesses excellent critical acumen, and has given much time to the careful perusal of several of the more eminent commentators, of diverse views, and clearly states the conclusions he has reached. The nature of the work may be gleaned from its contents: Introductory, The Trial by Fire, Proportionate Rewards, Supremacy of Love, Arise from Sleep, Review of Rev. J. A. Beet's Commentary, Principal Edwards on 1 Corinthians, Notes on Dean Alford, Olshausen on Corinthians, Bishop Elliott on 1 Corinthians, Supplementary Notes, Index to Texts, and Index to Authors Quoted. The book deserves a cordial welcome and a wide circulation.

RECEIVED.—THE CALENDAR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL, (Montreal: W. Drysdale & Co.) THE DAIRYMAID'S SUPPER. A Cantata for Church and Charity Festivals. By Mrs. A. G. Lewis and Leo R. Lewis. (Brattleboro', Vt.: E. P. Carter & Co.)

## THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

### PROGRESS IN COREA.

A Corean missionary writes: In reporting news from Corea the object is to show the change toward progress that we see continually. We have been here less than three years, but in that time three has grown up a decided sentiment in favour of the religion of the Lord Jesus.

We observed the week of prayer at the beginning of their New Year; the suggestion was made by the native brethren. Last Sunday I preached to fourteen believers and seekers; this does not include women. These are taught by a lady missionary in the Ladies Home, nor does it include all of our own followers, as we have quite a work in the country.

Among those present last Sunday was a young man from Quelpart, who two years ago refused a copy of a religious tract, because he thought he was endangering his life—though I did not think so then—now he is in regular attendance at all our services.

A year ago there came to my house two young men to study the Word. They came at night, and when they heard the least noise outside they talked in a whisper. Last fall I baptized one of these. He is an enthusiast on the subject of religion. I use this word in a good sense.

Being a widower, his friends wanted him to marry and, agreeably to the custom of the land, they found a widow whom they recommended. He listened to them, but before he decided consulted with us missionaries, sent her a copy of St. Mark's Gospel and of the Ten Commandment, with the word that only on the basis of these could he get married, and that he was prepared to receive a "No" in case of non-compliance with these conditions.

The woman, after examining the Gospel and Commandments, sent word back that, though not understanding all, what she did understand was "very good."

The next step was to make arrangements about the marriage ceremony. On my recommendation he translated (from the Chinese) our ritual, and sent a copy with explanations to the woman.

On the evening of March 15 they came to my house and, in the presence of a few select friends, Coreans and missionaries, were married according to the ritual of our Church, with not a vestige of the native ceremony. The self possession of the bride was remarkable and her answers clear and distinct. The man who a year ago was afraid as death almost to be suspected of believing in Christianity, now publicly and boldly proclaims that it is to be the standard of his life.

### WOMAN'S WORK IN CALCUTTA.

The work of the evangelization of women in Calcutta, committed to the care of the Free Church Ladies' Society, has various branches, of which the earliest and the inmost is the work of the Christian Home, known usually as the Orphanage or Boarding School. Fifty years ago, when the mass of the Hindu and Mohammedan women were beyond reach, a beginning was made among the orphans and the outcast by gathering them into a Christian home and training them to be Christian women, fitted for the common sacred duties of home life. In course of time the daughters of the first generation come to be trained where there mothers had been, and the orphanage grew into a boarding school, orphans, however, being still received. Further, the pupils have come to be educated not only for home life, but to be Christian workers, specially to teach in the day schools and zenanas. Thus the ordinary school has connected with it a normal department. In Calcutta there were last year fifty-six pupils in the former and thirty-four in the latter—ninety in all. Mrs. K. S. Macdonald is the superintendent. Miss Emily White, a daughter of Rev. Dr. Verner White, will go out in autumn to be mistress of the normal school under Mrs. Macdonald.

The second form of work is the day school for Hindu girls, and this is represented in Calcutta by Dr. Duff's School, as it is called, which has over 100 pupils on the roll, and is under the care of Mrs. Chatterjee.

The third form of work is the zenana mission proper, which is the largest part of the work in Calcutta. It is carried on by our three missionaries, Miss Warrack, Miss Colvin and Miss Brown, and eleven native Christian teachers.