

the Moderator's chair, the Assembly consigned to oblivion the last trace of the divisions of the United Church, which had been too long perpetuated by the alternating system of choosing the Moderator. Dr. Johnson, as is well known, was, like the late Moderator, of the New School side of the Assembly, and his election was a protest against the prevailing system, and a declaration that henceforth Old School and New School were to be things of the past, which would no longer have any recognition in the proceedings of the Assembly. This step was a sensible one, and the Canadian Assembly will show its good sense and Christian feeling by doing the same thing, and always, from this time forward, choosing for its Moderator the brother who is thought to be most likely to fill the chair with the greatest efficiency, whatever may be his ecclesiastical genealogy. In the U. S. Assembly, the majority of Old School members, with what Dr. Johnson called "generous, splendid magnanimity," surrendered any right they might have had from use and wont to the choice of a Moderator, and thus buried out of sight the last vestige of that distinction by which the opposing schools of bygone years had up to that time been in some measure recognizable.

The first subject discussed was "Sabbath Desecration," especially by the railroad companies. The remark of one speaker, to the effect that "the railroads have kind of bought us preachers by giving us half-fare tickets," called forth considerable applause, which subsided, however, when it was added, "They don't buy us now, because they charged us full fare to this Assembly." It was urged by some that the railroad officials were not always to blame, as church-goers had got them to run special trains for their special accommodation.

The usual open public meetings were held during the Assembly, beginning with one on the second day devoted to "Sunday School Work." In the course of his speech on the subject, Dr. Nicolls, of St. Louis, said: "There was a time when a certain quantity of religious teaching was given in the public schools. I would rather have one public school in which the Bible is read than ten Harvards with their subtle science and ologies, but the common schools are not educating the children thoroughly in religion. On the Church rests the great responsibility." From the report on "Ministerial Relief" it appeared that 466 persons had been assisted during the year, viz., 196 ministers, 244 widows, and 26 orphans, and that the outlay had been \$67,420.76, though other sources of assistance brought up the available funds for current use to \$90,656. The permanent fund, of which the interest only was available, was \$277,256.

The report on the "Work among the Freedmen" was very interesting and full of encouragement. It may be added in this connection, that though there was some trouble last year about accommodating the Fisk Jubilee Singers, there were more applications for coloured delegates to the Assembly as guests than could be met, and the general hospitality of Springfield left nothing to be desired.

The "Home Mission" is on a very large scale, as many as 1,303 missionaries being employed, while the total receipts for the year were \$403,108.

The total receipts for "Foreign Missions" were \$592,289, and the general condition of the several Missions so far encouraging and progressive.

From the report on "Systematic Beneficence" it appears that while there had during the year been a remarkable increase in contributions, yet many were still unfaithful to their duty in this matter.

The average contributions per member to all the schemes of the Church had been the last two years \$2.46, and for congregational purposes \$10.90.

The most exciting debate during the sittings of the Assembly was on the "Resumption of Fraternal Relations with the Southern Presbyterian Church." The result was all that the friends of union could desire. The way is now paved for that union being consummated at no distant day. Colour prejudice and slaveholding traditions die hard, but they do die all the same; and the wonder in the case of the Southern States is, all things considered, not that they linger so long, but that they are disappearing so rapidly. In the heat and excitement of such a civil war as raged in the States for four years, some things were said and done on both sides which all must now regret. Such regrets have now been expressed by both sections of the Presbyterian Church. It has been agreed to appoint deputies from each Church to visit the Assemblies next year, and no doubt the further work of conciliation will go on rapidly.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

SONGS FOR THE MASTER. Select Poems by the late Frances Ridley Havergal. (Philadelphia: The American Sunday School Union.) This neat little pocket volume contains seventy six of Miss Havergal's beautiful songs of faith and love and hope. With tastefully embellished cover and gilt edges, it makes a very suitable gift book.

RED LETTER DAYS. A Memorial and Birthday Book. By Frances Ridley Havergal. New York: A. D. Randolph & Co., Toronto: N. Ure & Co. Price 85 cents.) To the young Christian especially Miss Havergal's little books are attractive, and fitted to be eminently beneficial. That now before us will be found a most useful and pleasant daily companion. It contains for every day in the year a verse or two of Scripture, a stanza of poetry, and a blank space for manuscript notes.

EASTERN PROVERBS AND FABLES. By Rev. J. Long. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, Toronto: W. Briggs. Price \$1.) This volume of 200 pages contains a considerable accumulation of Eastern lore, interesting and instructive in itself, but of much greater value as throwing light on very many passages of Scripture. This in fact was the author's main object, for he has grouped the proverbs, etc., under Scripture texts, whereof he has supplied explanations. The Bible student will find the book of much use.

WHAT IS BRIGHT'S DISEASE? Its Curability. By Seth Pancoast, M.D. (Philadelphia: Published by the Author.) In an illustrated volume of 152 pages, Dr. Pancoast sets forth his views on what is now known as Bright's disease. He asserts that the primary cause of this ailment lies in the organic nervous system; that the disease may exist for years before the patient is aware of it; and that it is not incurable. The book is written in a style that renders it quite intelligible even to the unprofessional reader.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON. By the Rev. John C. Hill. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication. Price 50 cents.) It is to be hoped that the five-minute sermon to children will, in the near future, become a permanent institution. Towards such a result Mr. Hill has contributed not a little by writing the book now before us. In the introductory part, the use of the Children's Sermon is advocated and directions are given for its preparation. Then come the specimen sermons, sixteen in number, all, both in thought and in language, admirably fitted for their purpose.

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY. (Rochester: James Vick.)—With a beautiful bouquet of roses for frontispiece, the June number of Vick's Monthly contains much seasonable information and instruction for the gardener and flower-grower. With much regret we notice the death of the publisher, which took place on the 16th ult. Mr. Vick's occupation of seedsman and florist was to him a labour of love. By means of his publications he communicated his own enthusiasm to others, and thus, in his own way, he did much towards making the homes of this continent pleasant.

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: W. Briggs. Price 75 cents.)—An extension of the title tells us that this book is "a Pastor's Complete Hand-book for Funeral Services and for the Consolation and Comfort of the Afflicted." It opens with a series of scriptural funeral services, which appear to be selected and arranged with care. These are followed by a Biblical study on the subject of Death, and a short treatise on the Funeral as found in the Bible. The volume closes with a collection of texts, topics and hints for funeral sermons and addresses.

SUMMER GLEANINGS. (New York: White & Stokes; Toronto: N. Ure & Co. Price \$2.)—Here we have a bulky volume composed of drawing paper—a leaf for every day in June, July and August. At the top of the page there are a few lines of poetry by some well-known author; then a blank space for notes, another for a pen or pencil sketch, and a third for pressed flowers. The book is so bound that it will hold the pressed flowers without losing its shape. It looks very well as it is, but we should just like to see a copy after some industrious young lady has filled it from beginning to end with notes and flowers and pencil sketches.

MEMOIR AND REMAINS OF THE REV. ROBERT MURRAY MCCHEYNE. Abridged from the larger

Work. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier; Toronto: N. Ure & Co.)—The Life of McCheyne, by Dr. A. Bonar, is a household book both in Scotland and to some extent in this country; its lessons in the higher walks of life and duty have been profitable to many, and it is to be hoped that many more will still be benefited by them. The abridgment now before us, however, being a thin duodecimo of 150 pages, will make its way much more easily than the larger work, and in some instances at least serve as an introduction to it, while even where left to itself it is well fitted to be serviceable, for the abridging is done in such a way that but little of the force of the good man's life-lesson as a whole is lost.

CALVINISM IN HISTORY. By the Rev. N. S. McFetridge. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son. Price 75 cents.) We do not find in this book, nor does the title lead us to expect, any extended statement of doctrine. What we have here is Calvinism judged by its results as manifested in the character of its adherents—a safe and a scriptural criterion, for are we not told that "every tree is known by its fruit?" The headings of the divisions of the book will give some idea of the manner in which the author treats his subject, and all we need further say is that the plan indicated by these headings has been admirably carried out. (1) Calvinism as a Political Force; (2) Calvinism as a Political Force in the History of the United States; (3) Calvinism as a Moral Force; (4) Calvinism as an Evangelizing Force. The volume contains 157 pages, it is well printed, the paper used is of a superior quality, and the binding is strong.

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.)—The June number of the "Homiletic Monthly" contains the following sermons: "The Resurrection of Christ, the Corner-Stone of Christian Faith," by George Lansing Taylor, D.D.; "Christ's Solution of David's Assertion," by Arthur Brooks, D.D.; "The First Beatitude," by Dean Stanley; "The Light in the Clouds," by T. L. Cuyler, D.D.; "The Originality of Christ's Character," by T. A. Hoyt, D.D.; "Building with Hewn Stone," by Joseph Parker, D.D.; "Christ's Desire for His People's Company," by Rev. Archibald G. Brown; "Soul-Saving the Christian's Business," by Charles H. Spurgeon; "Sunday School Service—The Pyramid of Gizeh," by Joseph Sanford, D.D. Among the more interesting papers are: "Is the Revised Testament Gaining Ground?" by Rev. W. F. Crafts; "Misquoted Scriptures," by Taibot W. Chambers, D.D.; "Light on Important Texts," by Howard Crosby, D.D. This number is full of suggestive hints to ministers.

JUVENILE WIT AND HUMOUR. Five Hundred Wise, Witty and Waggish Sayings of Young People. Collected and Edited by D. Shearer, M.A., Ph.D. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier; Toronto: N. Ure & Co.)—The family visitor is often wearied with almost endless parental reports of the smart sayings of "our Freddy" or the wonderfully wise lisplings of "little Sarah Jane." This is the fault, however, not of the children, but of the over-zealous reporters who cannot distinguish a witticism from a blunder, or a wise utterance from the most helpless inanity. Not so our "M.A., Ph.D." With him there appears to be no deficiency in the power of knowing exactly where the laugh comes in, and every one of his five hundred specimens possesses the genuine ring. His diligence in gathering is worthy of commendation, but still more so is his care in selecting, for he worked in a very fruitful field; the simple mind of childhood often getting at truth by a direct path, all untrod, and strikingly distinct from the crooked ways of sage maturity. The book is well printed and has a nicely finished exterior.

A CORRECTION.

MR. EDITOR, I am advised that the statement in the extract from the Report on the State of Religion, Synod of Toronto and Kingston, concerning Chalmers Church, is open to misconception. Please give the *ipsissima verba* of the Kingston Presbytery's report, as follows: "In Kingston special Evangelistic services have been held, which have resulted, as the report of Chalmers Church says, in drawing some of the non-church going people."

WALTER M. ROGER,
Convener Synod's Committee.
Ashburn, Ont., May 23rd, 1882.