

little doubt that the year on which we have entered will see an improvement in the position of this most important fund. The state of the College Fund we must reserve for remark on some future occasion.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

SERVICES of a special kind under one name and form or another have for a long time been known and recognized in our church. Everyone at all acquainted with her history knows how eminently blessed these have often been, both in awakening concern in the careless and leading them to salvation, and in strengthening and quickening Christians themselves. It is a favorable sign that the desire for such services is extending in the church. We believe that it would be much more common were it not for difficulties and dangers that have often been experienced in connection with them, and which in certain instances have been so great as to make it a question, if more harm than good has not resulted from them. This, we believe, has largely arisen from the want of any proper recognition, control or direction by the church. Men, and women too, calling themselves evangelists, but having no authorization of any kind, and not having to any great extent the attestation of work done, and a long public record like Moody and men of that kind, go about the country, and in many cases unsettle people's minds and create divisions in churches, which cause only grief and disappointment. Yet as the need at times of using special agencies in the church cannot be disputed, and the desire for them may be laudable, and will find ways and means for gratifying itself, the unwisdom of leaving this matter to look after itself with all the risks which such a course involves is too obvious to need pointing out, and need not therefore be dwelt upon. Our church has steadily declined to set apart and recognize a separate class in the ministry by the title of evangelists, and yet it is well known that some men in the church have special aptitude for work of the kind called evangelistic. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England at its late meeting, took action in this regard which appears to us wise, and to furnish so far a solution of the difficulties which have been referred to. It appointed five ordained, well-known ministers and pastors, who were believed to have gifts and qualifications particularly fitting them for what is understood by evangelistic work, and simply with prayer by the Moderator designating them for it as their services might be called for. This provision for that kind of work we consider eminently wise and commendable. It recognizes special work as being at times desirable and necessary, it guards it from abuse by placing it in the hands of men whose doctrine and life, and regard for the well-being of a duly ordained ministry and settled congregations are known and can be trusted.

This is a matter which is very evidently within the jurisdiction of our Synods and should open up to them a way whereby they come into closer contact in a most helpful manner with Presbyteries and congregations. In all our Synods are men well qualified to aid their brethren who may desire to have a season of special evangelistic services, and whose coming to them in the name and by the sanction of the Synod would give yet greater weight to Christian labours and approved methods of working, which in themselves and for the object sought are naturally weighty and important. If a few men in any Synod were appointed from time to time for this work, no right feeling congregation should begrudge the services of its pastor two or three times a year, for two weeks or so at a time, his place being wholly or in part filled by another, while he was absent on a mission of so honourable and important a kind, for which, in the judgment of his brethren, he was specially qualified and to which therefore they had, for the time being, called him.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

TO one accustomed only to our democratic ideas and sober, plain ways the account of the ceremonies connected with the opening of the Assembly reads rather strangely. This presence of a Lord High Commissioner, the levee, the military, the bands and pipers, the procession, the crowds lining the streets, the blare of trumpets, the cheering, incline one to ask, What does it all mean? If Christ came, etc. This Assembly and that of the Free Church opened on the same day, May 31st. The religious services were held in the historic St. Giles, Edinburgh, and the retiring Moderator, Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, preached the opening sermon from the words, "And all the city was gathered together at the door" (Mark i, 33),

the subject being "The demands upon the Church of Christ created by modern civilization."

After the sermon, according to custom the Moderator delivered a retiring address, and referred to the first Assembly, that of 1560, comprising but 42 commissioners, of whom only six were ministers, while in the present Assembly there are 704 members, an increase of 662, including 140 new lay members. He proposed as his successor, the Rev. Professor Story, who, upon this being agreed to, took the chair with the usual formalities.

A report from a joint committee deplored that the collections from many of the parishes were so few and small. Measures were proposed to remedy this and a final report upon the subject is to be presented to next Assembly.

The report on the Aged and Inf. Ministers' Fund showed a great decrease of income. The Colonial Committee, on the contrary, were able to make a most satisfactory statement. Several representatives of colonial churches addressed the House, including Rev. Dr. J. G. Paton on behalf of the Victorian church. The Committee on Aids to Devotion stated that a volume of 100 prayers would be issued shortly. The report on Indian churches spoke of the inadequacy of the present staff of chaplains, and expressed a fear that no addition would be made while the finances of India were depressed. Rev. Dr. Alison had the satisfaction of presenting a report on the Mission to the Jews announcing the baptism of 13 adults and 9 children. Last year's income was £5,649, and the expenditure a little more.

In the report of the Committee on Christian Life and Work great prominence was given to the subject of gambling and remedies for the evil. Many congregational reports represented that, so long as the Church gives its sanction to lotteries and raffling at church bazaars, its power to cope with the evil was greatly weakened, if not destroyed. Dr. Marshall Lang spoke strongly upon the subject, and pointed out that "they would never reach the root of the evil until they promoted and realized a healthier, purer, nobler social and moral life in the nation." The report on Education and Sunday Schools showed an improvement in all branches of the work.

A deputation from the Irish Presbyterian Church, consisting of the Moderator, the Rev. Professor Martin, D.D., Rev. G. H. Buick, M.A., and Rev. D. A. Taylor, M.A., was received, and addressed the Assembly at considerable length, in which reference was naturally made to the question of Home Rule in Ireland and Disestablishment in Scotland.

Much time was given to discussion on Home Missions and the religious condition of the people. The Home Mission Committee reported an expenditure of £9,172, which, with the sums raised locally, made a total expenditure of £32,800 in connection with the Home Missions, being an increase of £431. An appeal was made for further funds to enable the committee to carry out the recommendations of Church extension by the Commission on the Religious condition of the People. The report of the Commission dealt mainly with the social and religious state of the farm servants and fishing population in the North and East of Scotland; and Dr. Norman Macleod, in presenting it, urged that the state of matters disclosed by the report called for new effort in a variety of directions on the part of the Church, if they were to withstand the wave of secularism which threatened society.

A report from the Church Interests Committee represents Disestablishment as having assumed a very grave aspect, and while suggesting various means to be adopted at the present crisis, specially recommends the issuing of a Pastoral Address to the members and adherents of the Church.

This is as far as our reports in Scottish exchanges extend as yet, and the reports of the proceedings of our own General Assembly of so much nearer and deeper interest to us, will in all probability prevent further reference at present to the action of this large, ancient and influential Established Church of Scotland.

Rev. Mr. Morton, our missionary in Trinidad, and his wife are on a visit to Scotland on furlough. Their leaving was taken advantage of by those amongst whom they have labored so long, and by God's blessing with such blessed results, to show their gratitude and the respect and affection toward their benefactors. A large gathering of East Indian Christians from nearly every section of the Tunapuna Mission was held to bid them farewell and express their good wishes. It was got up and conducted by the catechists and teachers of Dr. Morton's district, and along with them and their guests were 300 coolies of all ages and both sexes. One of the teachers presided with grace and dignity. Addresses were presented to both Dr. and Mrs. Morton, accompanied with a gift of five sovereigns to each, with which they were requested to purchase spectacles to be worn as a token of the high esteem and respect in which they are held. After appropriate replies and much pleasant speech-making by East Indians and members of the Presbytery of Trinidad, a feast was partaken of, and altogether the whole scene and the reminiscences, it called up of the change wrought by twenty six years of devoted labor on the part of Dr. and Mrs. Morton was such as to gladden not only their hearts but the hearts of all interested in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Books and Magazines.

OLD TABERNACLE THEOLOGY FOR NEW TESTAMENT TIMES. By R. Bradon Moore, D.D., Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work, 1334 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

The meaning of the old Tabernacle as a structure and of the elaborate ritual of which it was the centre are subjects upon which there is great prevailing ignorance. Beginning from within and not from without, the author's two chief objects have been "to learn as clearly as may be, just what the Tabernacle was designed to signify and to teach, and to apply what might be learned from the ancient symbolism to the present time, to make the blended lights of the old and new practical, as all sound doctrine should be viewed in the practical way." In the development of his subject such cardinal doctrines as, The Character of God, of Sin, of Divine Mercy, of Atonement, of the Holy Renewer, of Forgiveness, of Consecration, etc., are treated instructively with unction and in a reverent and devout spirit. The book is well worthy of the serious study of all who desire to understand and profit by the account of the Old Tabernacle and its ritual as contained in the word of God.

The June number of the *Homiletic Review* brings to a worthy close the twenty-seventh volume of that successful publication. The Review Section opens with a clear and forcible discussion of "The Evidential Value of Miracles," by Prof. Marcus Dods, D.D., of Edinburgh. "The Lost Treasure from Egypt," is the title of a paper by the Rev. Camden C. Cobern, Ph.D., descriptive of an Arabic copy of the "Diatesaron" of Tatian, recently discovered in the land of the Pharaohs, and but just done into English by Rev. J. Howlin Hill, of Cambridge. Dr. William Hayes Ward gives another of his articles on "Light on Scriptural Texts from recent Discoveries," treating the special subject of "Shushan, the Palace." The Sermonic Section is peculiarly rich in its presentations of truth. Dr. Kerr B. Tupper's vigorous discussion of the Public School Question is timely. The Memorial Day Sermon is by Rev. James D. Rankin. Other contributors are Prof. Hunt of Princeton, Dr. J. B. Remsnider. The other sections of the *Review* are well filled with interesting material. Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30 Lafayette Place. Price \$3.00 per year.

The *Arena* for this month, in the quality of its articles is not behind the high average which it so well maintains. It begins with a likeness of Victor Hugo for frontispiece, and there is also an article "The Social Ideals held by Victor Hugo"; "The Back Bay," by Walter Blackburn Hart, illustrative of Boston's growth and wealth, is an interesting article and finely illustrated. The Pioneer Poet is an account of Benjamin Hathaway, followed by his poem, "The Enchanted Word." "The Sixth Sense, and How to Develop it," is an account of Clairvoyance and some of its phenomena. "The Single Tax in Actual Application"; "The Higher Criticism of the Hexateuch"; "Honest and Dishonest Money"; "Child Slavery in America," with a large number of book notices complete this number, which is the opening one of Vol. Ten. The *Arena* Publishing Co., Boston, Mass., U.S.

The *Canadian Magazine*. This most excellent monthly in its June issue presents a most palatable bill of fare. The contributions are rich in variety, and full of interest to a wide range of readers both in the Dominion and abroad, and furnish entertainment and food for thought in regard to politics, commerce, domestic and social life, discovery, etc. J. W. Tyrrell, Wm. Oglivie, F.R.G.S., continue their interesting narratives. "The Safest Ships Afloat," is a beautifully illustrated article, by Henry Fry, dealing with ocean steamships in general, and the C. P. R. steamers in particular. Amongst other contributions are "The Machine in Honest Hands," by Herbert B. Ames; "A Japanese View of Japan," by K. T. Takahashi; and many others equally interesting. Ontario Publishing Co., (Ltd.) Toronto. \$2.50 per annum.

The *Biblical World* for June contain a large number of valuable articles on important subjects, among which we mention only two or three of those likely to be most useful for the general reader, "How much do I study the Bible, and How?" "The Sons of God and the Daughters of Men." "The Bible in the Sunday School." An important item in this number is the proposal to form "The Bible Students' Reading Guild" to enter on a course of New and Old Testament study to extend over four years, of which full particulars are given and which we would commend. The *Biblical World* the University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

The *Treasury*. This well known and well established Magazine for June maintains its excellent character in all departments. Its sermons are "Divine Discipline, Now and Afterwards," "The Divine Preacher," "Lessons for the Hard Times," "The conditions of Successful Prayer." The expository section begins with "The Parable of the Carpenters" by Rev. Dr. Stalker. The whole number will be found profitable. E.B. Treat & Co. 5 Cooper Union, New York, U.S.

Holidays in England is a handbook to an interesting part of the Old Country, new to most American travellers, between Liverpool and London. It includes some of the finest Cathedrals and Abbeys, of which cuts are given in the handbook, the East Anglian Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers, the Tennyson and Dickens' Country and Cambridge University, edited by Percy Lindley, New York, 370 Broadway, and 30 Fleet Street, E. C., London, England.

The June *Sanitarian* contains its usual liberal supply of valuable matter suitable especially for the medical profession and public health officers. "Drinking Water," "Recent Progress in Public Hygiene and Preventive Medicine," "Needful Precautions against the spread of Communicable Diseases by Travel," and "The Nations Sins of Omission" are among the most important articles. The *Sanitarian*, the American News Co., New York, U.S.

Of the *Cosmopolitan* for May, which was very late in reaching us, it is only necessary to say that it contains its full allowance of readable and timely articles, with illustrations superbly executed, and so always a delight to pour over. The *Cosmopolitan*, Sixth Ave. and Eleventh Street, New York, U.S.