

stand for any theory of interpretation or school of criticism or denomination, but for a definite endeavor to promote the knowledge of the Word of God as interpreted in the best light of to-day. From this point of view also the contributions of other religious literatures are sought by the Council, that through the study of these literatures the teachings of the Scriptures may be more clearly understood. The Council is organized on the belief that the Bible is a unique revelation from God, and strives in a constructive spirit to investigate its teachings and to extend its influence among the people. While, therefore, a large liberty is allowed to the individual teacher, the position occupied by the Council is altogether evangelical. The work of the Council includes all the work conducted by the American Institute of Sacred Literature, viz.:—1. Correspondence Courses in Hebrew, New Testament Greek, and the English Bible. 2. Reading Courses including (1) The Outline Bible Club Course for Christian Organizations, (2) The Bible Students' Reading Guild. 3. Summer Schools held in connection with Institutions, Assemblies, and independently. 4. Lectures in Extension courses, at Colleges and Local "Institutes," at conventions, and under independent auspices. 5. Examinations (1) in Hebrew, New Testament Greek, and the English Bible, open to College Students, (2) upon the International Sunday School Lessons, open to everyone.

The Armenian Fund. The Presbyterian Review received last week from Dr. Henderson of Chilliwack, B. C. the sum of \$23.50 being the amount collected at a union service held in Cooke's Presbyterian Church of that town on Thanksgiving Day. It would be well for this deserving fund if other congregations followed the example of our friends in the far west.

The late Rev. A. M. Phillips. We extend our sympathy to the brethren of the Methodist Church in their great loss by the death of Rev. A. M. Phillips. He was a sincere worker in the vineyard, a man of strong convictions, outspoken, and a ripe scholar. His energy and organizing powers were extraordinary, and in many ways his ministry was of great service to the Church as a whole. His death causes a blank that will be difficult to fill and he will be greatly missed.

The twentieth Century. If the modern chronologists are right, the Christmas we have just celebrated really belongs not to the year 1896, but to the year 1900. Leaving out of view the exact day and month of which we know nothing, we are now really at the close of the nineteenth century, and the beginning of the twentieth century. Nineteen hundred years have passed since the shepherds heard the blessed song of peace and goodwill. Nineteenth centuries have failed to see the promise fulfilled, and they pass on the duty unaccomplished, and the honor unachieved to a century which shall complete two chiliads. May we hope that the new century will be more faithful and more favored than that which looks back with disappointed faith as it fades away in distance and mist?—*The Independent*.

The Sunday Newspaper. The following words uttered by Mr. Moody at one of his recent meetings in New York is commended to our readers' careful consideration:—"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." Now I come to the Sunday newspapers. I wouldn't touch a Sunday newspaper any more than I would touch tar. If there are any attacks on me next Sunday I won't see them, for if any one sends me a Sunday newspaper I always tear it up. Nothing is doing more damage to the Church of God than the Sunday newspapers. The papers abuse

Tammany, but Tammany never did one-quarter as much harm in this city as have the Sunday newspapers. There are about 25,000 divorces every year in the United States. Many of them are directly due to the Sunday newspapers, which publish accounts of divorces in all their details. The Sunday newspapers are responsible for many suicides and murders. All the theaters in Chicago are open on Sunday as the result of the Sunday newspapers. In Chicago men are knocked down and robbed in open daylight, murders occur every day, masked men go into the stores and rob them. There is not a divorce case which is full of filth, there is not a case of adultery which the Sunday newspapers don't rake up and publish. The Angel Gabriel could not be heard by the Sunday newspaper readers.

Words of Approval. In renewing his subscription for the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Mr. Robert Harrison, Ashfield, Ont., writes a cheering letter which, because its typical of many communications received at this season, we reproduce. He says: "I am much pleased with the courageous stand the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW has taken on that vital question which has been agitating the public mind of Christian, Evangelical, Toronto for a considerable past 'The Sunday Car Question.'" The heat and weight of the enemy's last charge in the battle, for the time being, is upon your fair city. In this conflict, let the battle-cry of all lovers of the sanctity of the Sabbath in Toronto and throughout the entire land be, as with the voice of one man 'keep the front ranks solid.' In Jesus hand the true 'Jerusalem Blade' will win the field. The conflict will be short, and the victory certain."

The Criminal Record. An admirable handling of the "Prison reform" question is given by Mr. S. H. Blake in a recent letter which appeals to the good sense of all who have studied the methods of dealing with crime followed in Canada. Mr. Blake states that in Ontario last year there were 9,500 commitments for crime, and 6,000 convictions. If there had been six thousand cases of small-pox instead "we should have felt" says Mr. Blake, "the necessity of meeting such a state of affairs, and yet the continuation of crime has worse results than that of disease. Deterrent influence to those outside and reformatory influence on those inside our prisons are the main factors in dealing with this question. Culprits are sent down to what they call the "Criminal Club," where they are reasonably well fed, well housed and are glad to meet. The two measures necessary to prevent this are work and separation. It is more desirable that in the Toronto jail this work of separation should begin. A sum of \$3,500 would answer for this test. The cost of maintaining a single prisoner from his twentieth to fiftieth year has exceeded this sum. I feel but little doubt that in thus diminishing the number of prisoners to be arrested, tried and kept in the jail, in five years the whole of the extra cost would be saved. As Mr. Justice Rose says: Young men are often convicted of offences which do not really show moral guilt. In the jail they consort with hardened prisoners and so are educated in crime.

. Attention is called to the Phenomenal offer we make to our subscribers. On another page we announce a **Premium Family Bible**, given under most easy conditions to subscribers to the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW. Turn over the pages and read the announcement. A family Bible with references, helps, concordance, etc., printed in large, clear type, at an unusual low figure. Such an offer will seldom, if ever, be within your reach again. Secure a copy while there is time to do so.