

govern a city well?" Mr. McClure also blames "saloon-keepers, gamblers, and others who engage in business that degrades; contractors, capitalists, bankers, and others who can make money by getting franchises and other property of the community cheaper by bribery than by paying the community;" and "politicians who are willing to seek and accept office with the aid and endorsement of the classes already mentioned."

A religion that stays in the clouds is of no use to anybody. Religion must be definite, practical, useful—a binding rule of daily life—or else it is as much a mockery as the gilded prayer wheel of the Buddhist.

Mrs. Annie L. Jack, of Chateaugay Basin, Que., has won the prize of twenty-five dollars offered for the best short story by the Presbyterian Record. About thirty-five stories were received for consideration by the Rev. E. Scott, the editor of the Record. Mrs. Jack is a regular contributor, especially on horticultural subjects, to the columns of the Montreal Witness; but she also writes well on other subjects, both in prose and verse.

This paragraph from the Christian Observer contains much wisdom: The minister of a large church especially in the city must seek to secure thorough organization of the entire body of the people so that there may be no drones in the hive. If the minister prepares good sermons and visits faithfully the people under his charge, he does well; but if he can also develop his people, and especially his office bearers in all proper forms of religious activity and liberality, he does a great deal better. In a Presbyterian church this is specially true, because the elders and deacons are ready to be trained. In a church with a dozen elders, the minister should train them for various forms of work in connection with the spiritual welfare of the flock. Let it never be forgotten that the session, not the minister alone, is the real pastor of the flock to care for it and feed it. Neither teaching nor ruling elder should forget this.

The heroes of the war in Manchuria are not all in uniform, says an exchange. Three sick newspaper correspondents and four military attaches found a home with Dr. Westwater the Presbyterian missionary at Liaoyang, and after the Russians evacuated that city the missionary rode out, at the risk of his life, and informed the Japanese of the situation. All of the five Manchurian missionaries remained at their posts during the war. Their work is now largely of a relief character, in which they are assisted by the Chinese converts. A remarkable result of this opportunity and example has been the stirring up of the Chinese authorities to undertake relief work, which they have never done before. In addition to Dr. Westwater, there are Dr. John Ross, who has labored 32 years in the land; Dr. Douglas Christie, for 22 years; and H. W. Pallett, 7 years; all Scotch Presbyterians. Rev. Thomas C. Fulton of the Irish Presbyterian Church has been in Mukden 26 years.

THOMAS WARDROPE, D.D.

A representative of The Citizen, in the following sentences, gives sunny glimpses of that rare old veteran, Rev. Dr. Thomas Wardrope, first pastor of Knox church, Ottawa. Though nearly eighty-six years of age and though it is sixty years since he first took charge of the little congregation scattered about the vicinity of Daly avenue, he retains his faculties unimpaired and has come up to the Capital from Montreal to attend the jubilee celebration of the foundation of his former congregation. Not in the longest of summer days could one find a more charming conversationalist than the aged doctor of divinity, especially when the talk turns upon old Bytown days. He was born at Ladykirk, Tweedside, Scotland, in 1819, and came to Canada in 1834 at the age of 15. It was after taking his degree at Queen's university that he first became connected with Ottawa, then Bytown, as principal of the old grammar school. That was in 1843.

"I had only occupied that position for a year and a half," he said in conversation with a Citizen representative, "when a division arose in St. Andrew's church in conformity to the agitation in the old country over the Free church movement. Those who seceded from St. Andrew's built a Free church on Daly avenue and I accepted a call to be their minister."

"What kind of building did you have then?" asked the interviewer.

"It was a plain frame church. All the buildings were of lumber in those days. The Chaudiere was in the midst of a wood and nearly all the land about there was a swamp. The greater part of the town was about Sussex and Rideau streets where most of the big lumbermen had their offices."

"Were you very long with the new congregation?"

"I was twenty-four years there," said Dr. Wardrope, as though twenty-four years was not such a very great length of time. "Then I went to Guelph and ministered to a congregation there for another twenty-four years. It was while I was at Guelph that the present Knox church was built. The church on Daly avenue had become too small, and as the city had grown towards upper town it was thought best to build in a more central location, and the present church was erected. St. Paul's was built to meet the needs of the growing community on Sandy Hill."

"Are there any alive now who were in your first congregation?" the doctor was asked.

"There's George Hay," said Dr. Wardrope. "I ordained him as an elder and fifty years afterwards addressed him at his jubilee celebration of the event. There may be a few there but they must be very few."

An official statement handed out by the treasury department of the Ontario government Monday shows that the surplus of assets over liabilities on Dec. 31, the date to which the accounts have been brought down, totaled \$3,587,310. Of this amount \$3,100,000 is cash on special deposit and in the banks. The aggregate of assets on the date mentioned was \$9,481,786 and of liability \$5,894,476. On Dec. 31, 1903, the figures were \$9,383,306 and \$5,834,141 respectively and the surplus of assets over liabilities was \$2,549,164.

Literary Notes.

Current Literature (34 West 26th street, New York City) for January gives as front-piece an exceedingly good picture of Henry James. One of the books reviewed is *Fathfinders of the West*, by Agnes C. Laut, the young Canadian writer who has won so much success with her two novels of early Canadian times. Several pages are devoted to criticism, mostly of a favourable kind, of the work. Two other books of interest to which much space is given by the reviewers are: *Memories and Experiences by Moncure D. Conway*; and *The Appreciation of Sculpture*, by Russell Sturges.

We have just received the January number of the *International Journal* (1415 Locust st., Philadelphia). The following are a few of the articles that it contains: "The Ethics of Gambling," by J. A. Hobson, London; "The political and ethical aspects of Lynching," by A. P. Dennis, Smith College, Northampton Mass.; "The relation of the Ethical to the Aesthetical element in literature," by James Seth, University of Edinburgh; besides other articles on "The marriage de Convenience in France," "Pleasure, Idealism and Truth in Art," "Carlyle's Ethics and 'The Vivisection Problem,'" There is also a variety of British and American Book Reviews.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND AFTER. For December (Leonard Scott Co., New York.) Probably the most important article is that on "Great Britain and Germany," by J. L. Boshford, containing an account of a conversation with the German Chancellor Count Von Bulow; one of the most interesting is certainly that by Lady Priestly "What the French Doctors say," giving an account of the London hospitals. The reviser of "Hymns Ancient and Modern" receive another dose of severe criticism, this time from the Countess of Jersey. Sir Robert Anderson A Lesson from the Beck Case Mr. J. Clinton Collins discusses The Rhodes Bequest and University Federation; Baron Seryematsu, who in these days is active as a spokesman of Japan, explains the real significance of Hara-Kir. These are only a few of the many interesting articles in this number.

An article in the Outlook's January Magazine Number by Mr. George lies on "Electric Traction and its Rivalry with Steam" will astonish those who do not know what rapid strides trolley and third rail companies have made and how near the use of electricity on large railways is now thought to be. Equally readable in quite another way is Mr. Ernest Poole's vivid and thrilling account of a Russian revolutionary, who was exiled for twenty-three years in Siberia. Still another interesting feature is a story by Edith Rickert, author of "The Reapers," but in quite a different vein from that beautifully poetical romance; it is called "The Pot on the Fire" and is a deliciously humorous article of French life. There are also illustrated articles on "A Parliament of Nations," by Mr. Hayne Davis; "Gibraltar," by Mr. C. W. Furlong, the artist; together with portraits and sketches of men of the hour, editorials on current topics, the history of the week, reviews, and poems.