

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

St. Nicholas.

New York: Scribner & Co.

There are certainly funny pictures and funny stories enough in "St. Nicholas" for October to keep the young folks in amusement till the next number comes. There are also several papers of the more useful and instructive sort, such as W. S. Jerome's article on "How to keep a Journal."

Sunday School Times Scholars' Quarterly.

Philadelphia: John D. Wattles.

A copy of the "Scholars' Quarterly" for the fourth quarter of 1878 has been forwarded to us by the publisher. It contains the lessons for the quarter, with notes and questions—perhaps too many of the latter; Quarterly Review Chart; Responsive Review Exercise; Quarterly Bible Dictionary; Annual Review Chart; and an Order of Service. There are two maps—a plain map of Palestine in the time of Christ, and a map shewing, by means of differently marked lines, the "Pathways of our Lord." This publication is on the whole well calculated to be a help to teachers and scholars in the study of the International lessons.

The Atlantic Monthly.

Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co.

The contents of the October "Atlantic" are: "Certain Dangerous Tendencies in American Life," "Quatrains," by J. W. De Forest; "The Europeans," by Henry James, Jr.; "Summer Noon," by Augusta Larned; "Pogonuc People and other Novels," "Silver Buttons," by Elizabeth H. Fenn; "A House of Entertainment," by Horace E. Scudder; "Deus Immanens," by T. R. Bacon; "Abuse of Taxation," by Brooks Adams; "Home Life of the Brook Farm Association," "History," by R. H. Stoddard; "The Parson's Horse Race," by Harriet Beecher Stowe; "The Relations of Labor and Capital," by Erastus B. Bigelow; "The Meaning of Music," by Richard Grant White; "The Contributors' Club," Recent Literature. The anonymous article with which the number opens is evidently written by a person possessed of clear vision and a comprehensive grasp of intellect. Cool, calm, and unmerciful, he lays bare the political, religious, and moral condition of the United States with the skill and nerve of a practised surgeon. The rest of the matter in the present number is very readable, especially Mrs. Stowe's characteristic sketch of old New England life, "The Parson's Horse Race."

The Prayer-meeting and its Improvement.

By Rev. Lewis O. Thompson, Pastor Second Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Illinois. Chicago: W. G. Holmes.

This work, although quite new, is in its second edition. The preface to the first edition is dated May 11th, 1878, and that to the second edition June 15th, 1878. The short space of little more than a month between the two editions indicates a very rapid sale. The present edition is revised and enlarged. In the preface it is stated that the design of the book is to call the combined attention of pastor and people "to some hints and principles that would enlarge the efficiency of the prayer-meeting, and to assure those to whom public speaking is a burden that their experience is common to the majority of mankind, and should give them no uneasiness, beyond spurring them on until they acquire the habit of extempore speech." The "hints and principles" referred to are indeed well calculated to effect the object contemplated; and we doubt not that very many persons will find the book instructive and profitable. There is a chapter on each of the following topics: The Prayer-meeting as a subject of study; The People's Meeting; The Need of Preparation; The Daily Cultivation of Piety; The Topics; The Topics Illustrated; One Method for the Selection of Topics; Bible Readings for the Prayer-meeting; Illustrations of Bible Readings; A Plan for each Meeting; Variety in Successive Meetings; The Importance of the Prayer-meeting; How to make Prayer-meetings interesting; Uniform Topics; Steps towards Uniformity; Helps to Speaking in Public, Aids to Secret, Social, and Public Prayer; The Service of Song; How to secure Attendance; How Prayer-meetings are kept at a white heat; Treatment of the Monthly Concert; Laying Out Work; The Social Element in the Prayer-meeting; Hints, New and Old; Daily Prayer-meeting Topics. The book contains 259 pages, and is well printed and strongly bound.

The Watchword.

Boston, Mass.: Eben Shute.

We have received the first number of a new monthly magazine with title as above. It professes to be "devoted to the advocacy of the Primitive Faith, the Primitive Hope, and the Primitive Charity." From explanations in the Salutory, it appears that the "primitive hope" which it advocates is the hope of the premillennial advent, and it promises to have much to say on this subject; but there is very little said regarding it in this first number. The general character of the articles in this number is excellent, and some of the editorial paragraphs are remarkably sensible, pointed and wholesome. Here is one as a sample:

"Among the favorite methods of depreciating the plenary inspiration of Scripture now common is that of magnifying the authority of Christ's personal teaching above that of his apostles. 'I take Jesus' own words as my guide,' some are saying, 'and not his doctrine as expounded by Paul or Peter or John.' The assumption is especially dangerous, from the fact that it is so specious. It seems to exalt Christ by giving to him a solitary eminence as a teacher. Such eminence is truly his. But he himself has fixed the authority of his apostles as teachers of divine truth; and we cannot lower their authority without directly denying Christ's own words. He expressly declared, that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, whom he would send forth into the world after his departure, his apostles should be led farther into the knowledge and utterance of the truth than under his earthly teaching. To his disciples he said, 'I have yet many things to say unto you; but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.' With this saying before him, who can say that the teachings of the inspired apostles after the ascension were less authoritative than those of Christ? Who will presume to declare that they might not go farther than the Master had done in the unfolding of gospel truth? Surely it is impossible to magnify Christ's authority while denying his teaching in regard to the development of doctrine under his apostles."

Scribner's Monthly.

New York: Scribner & Co.

The articles in "Scribner" for October are varied, entertaining, instructive, and of wholesome moral tendency, as usual; and the number is, it seems to us, unusually rich in illustrations. The "Old Cabinet" is occupied with an article on "The Dominion of Canada" which though somewhat superficial—indeed flippant sometimes—is on the whole tolerably good. We give the following extract as the best part of the article in question:

"If, as Goldwin Smith believes, annexation is inevitable, the moment for that consummation has been indefinitely postponed. Meantime, whatever clogs have hindered the progress of Canada in the past, she is beginning at last to 'feel herself.' Some good Canadians may fear that the railroad system, with which they have been binding themselves together physically, in pledge of the new spiritual bonds, has proved too costly a boon, in expenditure of both capital and character. However that may be, it has its effect in bringing the Provinces into communication with each other and with the world; and, although a border Canadian, owning farms on both sides of the line, was told the other day that he could not take his horses a few rods into Vermont, to work his farm there, and then back into his own stables by night, without paying duty; on the other hand, the militia companies of Montreal and St. Albans interchange hospitalities and courtesies on the Queen's birthday and Fourth of July. Canada is not only nearer to the mother-country than she was before the laying of the cable; but recent years have brought Boston and New York, Montreal and Toronto, nearer together. They are beginning to read American books and magazines in Canada; and the States are becoming more and more interested in (though less covetous of) the Dominion,—in large part through the round-about way of England, and the attractive young literary men she has the fashion of sending to play governor of her American domain. The same talent that laid out the public gardens of Brooklyn and of New York, engineers the splendid drives over the mountain-park of Montreal. Nationality or no nationality, Canada cannot be cut off any longer from the general intellectual activities of the times. Principal Grant, of Kingston, finds no trouble in building up a handsome endowment for the University over which he is called to preside. Local journalism still talks about another 'honor to Canada,' when news comes that the Queen's daughter is to hold court in Ottawa, and gives circulation to advertisements of 'bitters,' whose names share the advancing honors of their illustrious and titled namesakes. Yet local journalism also gives opportunity to local talent—which, it is said, is supplanting in the newspapers that imported from Great Britain. Some of the Dominion's ablest men find it an inspiring thought that their country is part of the British Empire, that splendid and beneficent system, the mightiest agency of civilization in the world,—a noble edifice, which they would rather help to uphold than pull to pieces."

A friendly and powerful rival such as Canada is destined to become, will be no bad thing for the Republic. Already she is in advance of the States in her systems of civil service and judiciary, and we shall have much to learn from her by example, criticism, and warning."

When alone, we have our thoughts to watch; in the family, our temper; in society, our tongues. We should endeavor to illustrate our devotions in the morning by our conduct during the day.—*Hannah More.*

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

TESTING BUTTER SALT.—A Pennsylvania butter-maker tests his salt by dissolving a little in a glass tumbler. If the brine formed is clear and free from bitter taste, he pronounces the salt good; if, on the other hand, it presents a milky appearance, leaves any sediment, or throws a scum to the surface, he rejects it.

COOKING MUSHROOMS.—The only vegetable broiled is the mushroom. You must be careful to get a wholesome one; peel it carefully; grease the base of the gridiron; lay your mushrooms on with the stalk uppermost; do not turn it. In seven minutes it will be full of delicious ketchup, which you must be careful not to spill in taking off.

FOOD FOR AN INVALID.—The following is recommended as a good dish for an invalid: Crumb crackers into a bowl—more or less, according to the size of the crackers. Pour boiling water, sufficient to soak them, over the crumbs. Break a fresh egg, and add quickly, stirring the whole rapidly. The boiling water cooks the egg. Season according to discretion, with salt, pepper, cream, or butter.

APPLE PRESERVE.—Peel, halve and core six large apples, selecting those of the same size, have prepared a syrup made of one pound of granulated sugar, and a pint of water; when it boils, drop in the apples with the rind and juice of a lemon, and two or three cloves. As soon as they are tender, care must be taken that they do not fall in pieces. Take the halves out one by one, and arrange, concave side uppermost, in a glass dish. Drop a bit of currant jelly into each piece; boil down the syrup, and when cool, pour around the apples. This makes a very nice preserve for tea.

HOW TO KEEP A ROAD HORSE IN CONDITION.—It requires regular feeding with the best food, good grooming, and a clean, well-ventilated stable. A good course of feeding may be as follows: A three-peck basketful of cut hay, moistened and mixed with three quarts of good feed, of corn, oats and wheat bran, to be given morning and evening. At noon, four quarts of sound, crushed oats. At night, a few pounds of long hay. With each feed a tablespoonful of salt should be given. If the animal is rough and hide-bound, give a quart of linseed meal at each meal, in place of as much ground feed.

VENTILATION.—All the journals of architecture are hammering away at ventilation now. Don't let us forget how easy it is to pull the windows of our sleeping rooms out of their frames. The greatest mistake in constructing bedrooms has been in making them very high between joints and with immense spaces above the windows to deceive the sleeper into the notion that he has there a reservoir of good breathing material. The hark huts of the savage, with a fire in the middle, give better lodgings than those hotel rooms which seem contrived to retain the stench of twenty mercantile travellers.—*Hartford Courant.*

SLICED CUCUMBER PICKLES.—Medium-sized green cucumbers, pared and sliced, as for the table. To four quarts of slices add one large spoonful of salt, mixing it through them. Let them stand over night, and in the morning, rinse, and drain through a colander. Boil vinegar with whole, white mustard seed, half a teaspoonful of seed to two quarts of vinegar and set it away to cool. Pack the sliced cucumbers in quart cans, and cover with the prepared vinegar. Place a bit of alum on top of the pickles in each can, and seal. Keep in a dark, cool place. Pickles made after this rule retain much of the natural flavor of cucumbers.

CHARLOTTE RUSSE.—Dissolve one-third of a paper of Cox's gelatine in a teaspoonful of hot milk. Beat the whites of four eggs to a stiff froth and add three tablespoonfuls of powdered white sugar; stir the eggs and sugar into half-a-pint of cream. When the gelatine is dissolved and about milk warm stir all together and set it aside to cool. Line a mould or any simple dish—a common bowl if you choose—with pieces of sponge cake or lady fingers, and pour this mixture into it. Set it in a cool place, or into the ice chest, and when needed lay a plate over the bowl and turn the Charlotte Russe on it. Flavor with vanilla or any other extract or flavor best liked.

CELERY SOUP.—Six roots of celery, one large turnip, two ounces of onions, four ounces of bread crumbs, one dessert-spoonful of flour, and half-a-pint of cream. Strip off all the green part of the celery, using only the white; cut it in shreds, reserving the inside of three of the roots to be added afterward; slice the turnip and onion, and put them with the celery into a pan; add two quarts of water, the bread crumbs and a little salt; let all boil till the vegetables are perfectly soft; rub through a sieve; return to the pan; add the celery (previously boiled till quite soft), the flour in the batter well mixed; stir it, seasoning it with a little mace, and after boiling a quarter of an hour stir in the cream, and do not allow it to boil afterward.

VITALITY OF SEED.—Dr. Schomburgk, in his report on the Botanic Garden and Government Plantations of South Australia for 1877, gives an account of an interesting experiment he made with some Arctic wheat taken from a quantity left by the American Arctic Expedition ship "Polaris," in 1871, which had been abandoned in north latitude 81 degrees 16 minutes. This wheat had been left on the beach exposed to the snow and a temperature of 72 to 104 degrees of frost for five years, and was found in a heap by Dr. Ninnis, of the English ship "Discovery," on the return of the last Arctic Expedition to England. Dr. Schomburgk received 1,000 grains, of which he sowed about 300. From the 300 grains about sixty germinated. The plants grew well, and reached to the height of from three to four feet. It is a bearded wheat, and ripened in the beginning of January. The ears contained about thirty grains, which were but small, though round and plump. The birds unfortunately destroyed the greater part before it came to maturity, but the interesting fact proves the assertion that the grain of the cereals possess a vitality not surpassed by that of any other seed.—*Exchange.*