

Books and Magazines.

that town a very able and interesting lecture on "Christianity and some of its Evidences." In undertaking such a task the magnitude and the difficulties are great. The subject itself is so wide that it is far from easy to select what will be to hearer or reader a comprehensive yet compact view of the whole field of survey. The best manner of presenting the subject to an audience requires consideration. It is possible to construct a masterly presentation from an academic point of view, but the lecture may be so elaborate and recondite that many of the hearers will, from want of special training, be unable to follow completely the line of the speaker's argument, and much of its force is thereby lost. Again, one may decide on a strictly popular method of treatment. The points may be directly made, the anecdotes and illustrations apt for the purpose, but for the more thoughtful minds this mode of treatment is far from satisfactory. Mr. Mowat's method of dealing with his subject was singularly happy. A loose, disjointed rhapsody is beyond his powers. He could indulge in that vein though he were to make the attempt. Neither on the other hand, full and elaborate as his lecture was, it was not weighted down by an unnecessary scholasticism. It was clear, logical, interesting and satisfying.

Not the least interesting part of the lecture was the brief account of its genesis. In his younger years, he told his audience that he had carefully studied the evidences of Christianity. Among the books that helped him he mentions Paley's "Evidences" and Keith "On the Fulfilment of Prophecy," works to which many in years gone by have been greatly indebted for the help they rendered in enabling them to reach the same conclusion to which Mr. Mowat had come. Since then the questions at issue between belief and unbelief have changed much. Modern thought has left behind many of the objections urged against the Christian faith, and the defenders of Christianity have felt it incumbent on them to meet the objections that originate in the doubt and scepticism of the present. It is suggestive that the Premier of Ontario felt impelled to re-examine the grounds on which his religious convictions rested. He embraced the opportunity which a brief respite from official cares afforded to enable him to go over the ground afresh and to prosecute his enquiries in the light of the present time. He is familiar with the attitude assumed by the present day scientists and philosophers, who avow their disbelief in the supernatural. Their arguments are unable to move him from the steadfastness of his faith. He falls back upon the marvellous facts of Christianity, and notes the concessions that some of the modern writers are compelled to make relating to the character and claims of the God-man. These he presents with cumulative force, and draws a picture which for beauty and strength it would be difficult to surpass of the Christian Ideal "as Christ set it up, and as He Himself in His own life illustrated it" and which "is happily the ideal of all who call themselves Christians." Were this ideal realized to the full, this earth would be transformed into a Paradise. The Christian believes in its attainability, and the day is coming when "the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and He shall dwell among them."

It is well that scholarly men should devote their best powers to Christian apologetics; it is well to see busy and capable men of affairs turning aside for a brief season to give their testimony in favour of the great truths most surely believed among us. All are needed. They are rendering valuable service to the highest and truest interests of humanity. It still remains true that the most convincing of all apologetics is the power of the individual Christian life that in every sphere from the humblest to the highest adorns the doctrines of God our Saviour by a life and behaviour becoming the Gospel.

AN ARCHBISHOP LET LOOSE.

THE Pope as head of the Roman Catholic Church is said to be infallible. If history is to be believed it is evident, to put it mildly, that several of the occupants of the chair in which St. Peter never sat have emphasized the fallibility of human nature. One thing is clear that all the dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Church do not share in the infallibility of their spiritual head. There is the newly installed Archbishop of Kingston, for instance, whose utterances on certain public occasions are evidently lacking in the wisdom that pertains to infallibility. He is a comparatively recent importation and may to a certain extent be unac-

customed to the new environment. Coming from a land where outspoken opinions by a prelate are less liable to attract attention than they are in Canada, he may think it unnecessary to bridle a too voluble tongue. Still his experience will doubtless be such that his archiepiscopal statements will be less impulsive in the future than they have been in the past. It is not for a moment implied, however, that this dignitary's freedom of speech should in the slightest degree be interfered with. This is a land of free speech, and like all others he has full liberty to speak as often, as wisely or as foolishly as he chooses, only he cannot be divested of responsibility for his sayings.

The newspapers of the past week have given publicity to some of the more piquant things he said on the occasion of his full investiture with the insignia and authority of his elevated ecclesiastical rank. More especial attention has been given to remarks made in reply to the congratulatory address presented to him by the laity of the diocese. The calm moderation that belongs to episcopal utterances is wanting in the Archbishop's remarks. However much it might be desired to describe them as dignified, it would be extremely difficult so to characterize them. In extenuation it might be advanced that the exalted prelate felt so exhilarated by the novelty of his position and the uplifting influence of the occasion that his mind was working with the utmost freedom and his tongue with more than its wonted celebrity. Fiery and impetuous as he evidently is, when in calmer and less exciting moods he may ruminate ruefully over some of the "things that had been better unsaid."

The Equal Rights' agitation has evidently disturbed the Archbishop's repose. Now that the conflict in its acute form is over, he might have said less or said it in a less offensive form. "Only a few months ago," he said, "a number of infidels and some bigots thought they could sweep the country in an attack upon the Catholic Church and schools. They were led by ministers who were the foremost in denying the Lord Christ in the form of His discipline and His Church. Among the members of that new party were the worst men in the country. In our Lord's name the Church stood the storm. The Church carried the day. The bigots thought they would starve our religion out in the schools, but the Church carried the day." These are hard words for a prelate to use but humility does not always grace the episcopal bench. True he seeks at the same time to inculcate charity, but these are hardly the tones in which charity usually finds expression.

"The warfare and agitation were stamped under foot by the Protestant people of Ontario. The right of the formation of the child's mind was preserved to us. We will remember it forever. We have had kind feelings towards them; we will have kinder feelings towards them in the future. The Protestants as a whole," said he, "stood between us and our enemies. They have established our rights forever in spite of the agitation of political firebrands, infidels and agnostics." As an adept at calling names the new Archbishop will doubtless outstrip all competitors, if better counsels do not prevail. He talked also in a disparaging way of our public schools, and expressed the determination at all hazards to maintain separate schools against all comers, legal, political or ecclesiastical. The fine fervour of the speech, however, precludes the possibility of premeditation, and affords one more illustration of the unwisdom of indulging in indiscreet extempore utterance on public occasions. As the worthy dignitary gets more accustomed to his surroundings he will doubtless be more inclined to weigh his words, especially if he cares that they should carry weight with them.

Good Protestants, though they may very properly resent the ungenerous and contemptuous way in which he spoke of their ministers, have no great reason to be displeased with the remarks which have gained some notoriety. On the contrary they owe him some gratitude. The outspoken and defiant words of Roman Catholic dignitaries are eminently helpful to the spiritual and intellectual emancipation of their own people, who are thereby stirred up to think for themselves. Extravagant claims to the exclusive control of education at once awaken questionings in the minds of the more intelligent Roman Catholics, and their absolute submission to ecclesiastical rule becomes increasingly irksome. This has been the case in Italy, France and more recently in Brazil. Canadian Protestants would not be greatly disturbed if the new Archbishop of Kingston kept on speaking in the style that seems so familiar and attractive to him.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—Littell presents its readers weekly with a varied and most attractive selection of the best current literature of the day.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This exquisite little monthly presents its wide and interesting circle of readers with just such stories, short papers, poems and pictures as will delight and instruct them.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The contents of this admirable weekly publication are sufficiently varied and attractive to suit all classes of young readers. The papers and stories are from the pens of writers of acknowledged eminence, and the illustrations are pleasing alike from the number and excellence.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The November number of this splendid monthly for young readers begins the eighteenth volume. It has not been content to achieve a high standard of excellence, but has steadily endeavoured to reach a higher ideal. The current number has many attractions, and the arrangements for the coming year are such as to secure a still wider circulation and thereby attaining to a larger measure of usefulness.

THE METHODIST MAGAZINE. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—Under the guidance of the editor, the "Canadian Tourist Party" this month explores some of the beauties of Switzerland. Lady Brassey's "Last Voyage" continues its course, and the Rev. George Bond continues to present his "Vagabond Vignettes." Rev. Dr. Hugh Johnston, of Toronto, writes a good description of the "Mammoth Trees of California," and other interesting things he saw on the Pacific coast. Peter Bayne, I.L.D., has a paper on "Samuel Budgett, the Successful Merchant," and J. Oxley Macdonald writes on "The Indian in Canada."

THE NEW ENGLAND MAGAZINE. (Boston: New England Magazine Corporation.)—In addition to the varied and interesting contents there is a fully-illustrated article in the new November number on "Fifty Years of a Canadian University," by J. J. Bell, M.A., Queen's University, Kingston, which celebrated last year its fiftieth anniversary, is the subject of this article, which is enriched by pictures of the old and new homes of the University, a view of Kingston, and portraits of Chancellor Fleming, Principal Grant and the leading professors. It is an article which will have interest to many in Canada besides the graduates of Queen's University.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—Illustrated descriptive papers in the current number are: "Elephant Hunting in Africa," "A Perilous Voyage through the Canon of Colorado," "The Cruise of the White Squadron along the coast of France" and "A Day with a Country Doctor." Mrs. F. Rhineland Jones describes "Training Schools for Sick Nurses." Professor Shaler concludes his series of papers on "Nature and Man in America." The attractive anonymous story, "Jerry," is continued, and short story and poems, together with the customary features, complete a decidedly good number.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The November number of Harper's is particularly strong in the matter of finely-illustrated descriptive papers. Charles Dudley Warner describes Southern California under the title of "Our Italy." Lafcadio Hearn, who went from Montreal to Vancouver and thence across the Pacific to Japan, contributes a paper on "A Winter Journey to Japan." Theodore Child describes "Urban and Commercial Chili." S. H. M. Beyers gives an account of "Switzerland and the Swiss," and Professor W. M. Sloane, of Princeton, narrates the history, methods and aims of that famous institution of learning. Other papers, short stories and poems add to the attractiveness of the number. Alphonse Daudet completes his stirring serial, "Fort Tarrascon."

THE ANDOVER REVIEW. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—This ably-conducted theological monthly maintains the high standard of excellence it has exhibited since its commencement. The current number has a number of papers deserving careful perusal. Principal Caven writes on "The Conflict Between Religion and Science," Dr. Dunning on "The Reorganization of Congregational Churches," Miss Agnes Maule Machar, of Kingston, writes with her wonted charm on "Leaders of Widening Religious Thought. I.—Thomas Erskine." The Rev. Charles C. Starbuck continues his interesting series of papers on "A General View of Missions." Other papers of equal interest, together with the usual features, make up an excellent number.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The Review Section of the current number contains papers on topics of timely importance. Dr. William W. McLane writes on "A Scientific Study of Christianity. Part I. Revelation." Dr. Daniel S. Gregory discusses "Shall We Give Up Doctrinal and Preaching?" Dr. Witherspoon has a paper on "Christ Preaching to the Spirits in Prison"; Professor George H. Shodde considers "The Leading Problem of New Testament Discussion"; and Rev. N. W. Wells deals with "Moral Aspects of the Prize System in Educational Institutions." The Sermonic and other sections are replete with varied and suggestive matter for reflection. The number as a whole is one of decided excellence.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—With the November number this enterprising representative of American periodical literature celebrates its twentieth anniversary. The excellence attained during its existence is most marked. A paper of much interest and very clearly written is by the printer of the Century giving a detailed account of the artistic and mechanical production of the magazine. The chief papers in the number are: the first of a series by Mr. Rockhill on a journey into Tibet, the first of a series on the "Gold Hunters" by John Bidwell who opens with a description of "The First Emigrant Train to California." These papers are copiously and finely illustrated. A new work of fiction, "Colonel Carter of Cartersville," by F. Hopkinson Smith, is begun, and there are two good short stories as well as the usual number of meritorious poetical contributions. Dr. Shaw contributes a most valuable paper on the "Municipal Government of London."