

Literary Notices.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE for January opens the New Year well. The leading article on "The Management of Railways" is of great value, as are all the railway articles that have appeared in SCRIBNER'S during the past few months.

Like some of our r.'s wonders this wonder of the nineteenth century grows upon one as these articles are studied until one scarce knows which to admire the most, the engineering skill which, with its bridges and tunnels laughs alike at rivers and mountains, or the capacity for organization which in all its vast and intricate details manages the work of a railway company.

Such a complete exposition of "railways" in all departments of the work, and presented in so attractive a manner has so far as known to us never been given before.

A STRIKING ANSWER TO PRAYER.

On February 18th last, the Rev. Gerhardt, Moravian missionary of Surinam, narrates the following noteworthy experience:—

The absence of all rain worth mentioning during the last five months produced a scarcity not only of field crops and of the necessary means of subsistence, but of drink for man and beast. The people turned out in troops and walked for miles in different directions in search of water. A piece of land just behind the station, flooded during the rainy season for fertilizing purposes, was not entirely dried up. When this was discovered everyone flocked to the spot. We noticed that several persons were kept constantly occupied in carrying water for household purposes. But here, too, it was evident that the supply would soon be exhausted.

The drought had been a subject of prayer at all our gatherings for public worship since the beginning of the year. Now, however, as matters had really become serious, we instituted a Week of Prayer, meeting every evening in the church, in accordance with the precept contained in Romans xii. 12. After examining ourselves before the Lord, and endeavouring to discover any hindrance to blessing on our part, we humbled ourselves before our Saviour and besought His mercy. To our joy these meetings were as well attended as the Sunday services. We feel sure that they were accompanied with blessing, and that an impression was made on those present. But our chief cause of rejoicing just now is the fact that the Lord has graciously heard our prayer. The answer

came last night, before the end of our Week of Intercession, and for the last twelve hours continuous, gentle, and fertilizing rain has been falling on the dry and thirsty land.

This striking answer to prayer not only is a new strengthening of my own faith, but will never be forgotten by any, old or young, belonging to the congregation. Those so-called "enlightened" persons, who, at the beginning of the week, sneered with contemptuous pity at the idea of our praying for rain, have thus had their mouths stopped. Oh for more earnestness and constancy in prayer, and for more simple faith to expect the answer.—*Periodical Accounts.*

PETER'S REVIVALS.

The Apostle would be considered even now a fair revivalist, and his methods are worth consideration. We have no indication that he had any machinery. There is an account of acts, but none of arrangements. He had no bulletin board and did not send any reports to the daily papers as to how many were converted and how many men of wealth and position were in the inquiry-room; nor did he, so far as the record goes, close his reports to the papers with "This makes five thousand since I became pastor of the church." Sometimes we wonder if a revival could be carried on by its own quiet impetus. We wonder if it could once more get publicity by the men and women converted going everywhere, telling what great things God had done for their souls. As miracles have not ceased this state of things may come around once more. We think the Church would like the variety and the world the novelty.—*Phil. Pres.*

THE SURE ANCHORAGE.

Loyalty to the principles of God's Word, loyalty to the everlasting right, must be embedded in the conscience and control the conduct, or else we drift upon the rocks. It is not strength of intellect that saves a man, or the surroundings of society or alliance with a church, or even orthodoxy of belief. All these have proved but cables of straw attached to anchors of clay. We must have conscience taught of God and held by God, or we drift upon the lee shore. God never insures a man except while his anchor is fastened to the divine principles of right with the cable of practical obedience.—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*