

those persons do not support the Society. Its funds are drawn largely from the poorer classes, whose pence ought to go for the conversion of the heathen, and not to help a Colonial population which is often in better circumstances than the givers. But unless applications are made year by year, they must naturally lapse; otherwise when legacies and large donations come in which are available for Colonial work, these cases will not be in any formal way before the Society.

It would be far better if the connection between Colonial Dioceses and the S. P. G. could be maintained in some way, and thus each Diocese might pass gradually from the phase of being a recipient of the Society's aid to that of a contributor to its general fund. It is much to be deplored that many of the Dioceses which have received liberal aid in early days have now lost touch with the Society.

Yours faithfully.

W. R. CHURTON.

P. S.— see that at the meeting of the Christian Knowledge Society held on July 5, the Standing Committee recommended the appeal of the Bishop of Columbia, and gave notice that having regard not only to the present population and circumstances of the Diocese, but to the development of the mineral and other resources of the country and the probable growth of the population, they would at the next October Monthly General Meeting of the Society, propose that the sum of £1,500 be granted towards a permanent Clergy Endowment Fund for the Diocese of Columbia, to meet £6,000 raised from other sources for the same object, the grant to be payable in instalments of £250, each instalment to meet £1,000 raised from other sources; the grant and the sums raised to meet it to be permanently invested in trust to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee. This proposal has been announced since the Bishop gave his charge, and may lead to his renewing his application to the other Society, especially as at a meeting of the S. P. G. Board in 1860 (I think)—a meeting at which the Bishop took part in the proceedings,—a similar proposal for aiding permanent endowment funds was adopted. I myself would gladly see it revived.

Cambridge, Sept. 18, 1887.

W. R. C.

CHURCH FEDERATION.

SIR.—In September last at the Provincial Synod meeting, the first note was sounded on the important question of a united Church of England in the whole of British North America by the passing of a resolution and the appointing of a Committee of two from each Diocese to consider this whole subject and report to the next meeting of that Synod, and at the same time a proposition was introduced in the House of Bishops by our Venerable Metropolitan and fully concurred in by the Lower House, inviting the Metropolitan and the Synod of Rupert's Land to consider the question of closer relations with the Eastern part of the Church in the Dominion.

The resolutions have been marked by the action taken by the Church in various parts of the Dominion showing clearly that the time has come for some decided action being taken to bring about so desirable an object as a United Church from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The action of our Provincial Synod brought into existence the association of the "Canadian Church Union," and among its other objects is one especially favouring this union of the scattered parts of the Church in Canada, in this it has been most successful, as by dint of correspondence and a free distribution of circulars, it has brought this subject before the various Synods, which has so far resulted in the appointing of Committees in some of the Dioceses to confer with the General Committee appointed by the Provincial Synod—this has extended to the Province of Rupert's Land and British

Columbia, for at the late Synod of this Province a resolution was passed entirely approving of a United Church. Since the passing of this, we have the cheering news that a number of the Clergy and Lay delegates taking advantage of the liberality of the C. P. R. had visited the Province of British Columbia, and conferred with the Bishop and Clergy, and found there a strong feeling in favour of uniting with the Church of Eastern Canada. A correspondent of the "Union reports that our circulars, &c., had prepared these extreme Western Dioceses for this movement, and, from Winnipeg we have the gratifying assurance that at the meeting of the Synod, owing to this subject having been so fully ventilated by the "Canadian Church Union" through their circulars and correspondence, the Church mind was fully prepared to accept the proposal for uniting the Church; so far had this extended that the Rev. Canon Omeara of the Diocese of Toronto was deputed to attend the meeting of that Provincial Synod, and urge the necessity of this union. The Bishop of Huron at that meeting spoke strongly in its favour, the Metropolitan of that Province also referred favorably in his charge to this movement, and we see in the last issue of the "Guardian" extracts from the charge of the Bishop of Qu'Appelle to his Synod, strongly urging this Federation of the Church. This all is evidence that the Church is prepared for Union, and most opportune it would be that the foundation at least be laid in the year 1887 as a fitting commemoration of the Centenary of the Church of England in British North America.

The great consideration now is, how this is to be brought about and the best means of propounding some scheme to be submitted, for the consideration of our many Dioceses. The proposition of the "Canadian Church Union" is that a conference be held (by means of representatives if possible from every Diocese) with the Special Committee appointed by the Provincial Synod, when the leading features of this great question may be preliminarily considered, and the result of the deliberations submitted to all the Dioceses, so that they may be fully considered at the respective Synods of 1888, and the reports from these Synods received by this Committee, so that the whole subject based upon these general views of the Church through the Synods may be again reconsidered, and a further report from the General Committee or Conference again submitted for the Synods of 1889. The final result would be known by this Committee in time for their report as required to the Provincial Synod of Canada in that year. Without some such action the Committee will not be in a position to report intelligently as to the views of the Church as a whole, and much time will be lost as our Provincial Synod meeting only every three years, it might without some such plan be six or nine years before anything was affected. Such a Conference as proposed is the only method whereby an intelligent opinion can be obtained of the most suitable form of Federation, for from the present organization of the Church with its separate Diocesan governments, it will require time and conferences to bring about a unity of opinion on this great and vital question in the interest of the Church of England in B.N.A. I trust we may soon hear of some plan whereby this Conference may be brought about. Yours truly,

W. J. IMLACH,

Secretary C. C. W.

NEW BOOKS.

PRINCESS CASAMASSIMA.—By Henry King—(MacMillan & Co., New York.)

Of this work an English Reviewer says:—"It is difficult to define the sensation with which one reads Mr. Henry James's most curious and most clever novel, *The Princess Cassamassima*. It is something more than interest

and less than enjoyment, colder than admiration, yet not so eager as curiosity. The effect of the book on the mind resembles, more nearly than anything else we can recall, the feelings that sometimes come to people committed unintentionally to the study of a subject not in itself attractive or necessary of them. The first steps were against the grain, but patient application brought its reward; they have been glad to learn how much there was to be said on a subject they did not care for; their mind has been enlarged by realizing a number of *bizarre* phenomena the very existence of which they had not imagined before. The peculiarity of the book is that though an extreme realism is its note, it lies quite out of the ordinary paths of life. There is not a single conventional scene, situation, or character in it. The personages of the story are all exceptions; some are so voluntarily, out of the eccentricity of their dispositions, others are compelled to be so by the perverseness of their position." We have not been able to awaken enough of "interest and enjoyment" to read the work ourselves, and therefore give our readers the benefit of the foregoing extract.

MAGAZINES.

THE CENTURY for October has as a frontispiece a striking portrait of Harriet Beecher Stowe, engraved by T. Johnson from a photograph by Saxony. This portrait is apropos of a paper by James Lane Allen, entitled "Mr. Stowe's 'Uncle Tom' at Home in Kentucky," which recounts the life of the Kentucky slave of the old time, in a series of typical scenes, pointing out some considerations which it is thought should qualify Mrs. Stowe's point of view. The paper in the series on "English Cathedrals" is this month devoted to Ely, which is called by Mrs. Van Rensselaer "the great queen of the ten lands. . . always imposing, always superb, always tremendous. . . Nowhere," she says, "is there a more magnificent piece of handiwork." The text traces the history and discusses the artistic importance of the cathedral. Mr. Pennell's drawings are not less interesting or effective than in the previous articles of the series. Mr. Stedman contributes a paper of criticism, entitled "Twelve Years of British Song," being chiefly extracts from the forthcoming supplement to the next edition of "Victorian Poets," most of which, it will be remembered, appeared in the CENTURY. The later work of Tennyson, Browning, Swinburne, and the younger English poets here receives critical attention. The serials, "The Hundredth Man," and "Azalia," are concluded, and the papers in the War Series are continued; also in "Open Letters" is one on "Christian Union and Baptism," by the Rev. Herbert H. Hawes; another on "Christian Union and Pending Public Questions," by Rev. Wm. Chauncey Langdon; and a note on "Secret Societies in College," by the Rev. Charles S. Robinson. The Century Co., Union Square, N. Y.

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE contains a description of an ascent of the last crater of the Mexican volcano, the top which is three thousand feet higher than any Alpine peak by Arthur Howard Noll; also a description of that ancient country China, and its very old-fashioned people which seems timely as investments are being made there now. The article is illustrated and portrays the crowded life of Peking and its vicinity, as seen by an American resident long connected with the United States Legation.

Duck shooting and warlike reminiscences are mingled by Charles Ledyard Norton in a lively account of a canoe trip to Penrose Ferry, near Philadelphia, where he found "A Pot-Hunter's Paradise."—The American Magazine Co., 130 Pearl St., N. Y.