

people foolishly responding to their appeals they would soon give up in disgust what was proving a profitable pursuit. They would not starve. They are not of that kind. In all large cities there are a number of charitable organizations, both connected with the churches and the municipalities, besides other voluntary associations inaugurated for the express purpose of helping the distressed. The really deserving poor for the most part do not care to parade their poverty. They often suffer grievously in silence and in concealment. Genuine and intelligent charity has a wide field for its constant exercise. This charity demands more than mere giving. It requires personal effort and personal knowledge of some at least of those that are its subjects.

If people want to exercise the grace of charity there is abundant scope. Much timely aid can be given through local charitable committees. This would be true economy as well. There would be less scope for imposture, less waste, and much more effective help extended to the suffering and distressed. In these chilling days of winter, when in not a few cases work is scarce and helpless children are hungry and poorly clad, there is ample room for the exercise of a discerning charity, and of experiencing the truth of the divine saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ON THE WAY.

The following letter from Rev. John Knox Wright, en route for Trinidad has been received:

MR. EDITOR, -Our friends throughout the Church will be pleased to learn that in the good providence of God we are well on our way to Trinidad. Rev. Mr. Morton and family are with us. All members of our party are in perfect health. We have experienced some roughish weather, but on the whole have had a pleasant and prosperous voyage.

We crave the earnest prayers of God's people that our work in Trinidad may be abundantly blessed in the good of souls to the glory of God. We shall pray for the peace and progress of the Church at home. Grace, mercy and peace upon all who love Jesus.

JOHN KNOX WRIGHT.

St. Kitt's Harbour, S. S. Muriel, Dec. 5th, 1883.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

MY FIRST POUND NOTE. By Jane H. Jamieson. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—A simple but impressive and useful short story, inculcating thrift, well told.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The holiday numbers of "Young People" have been sources of unbounded delight with all into whose hands they have come.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The contents of the January number of "St. Nicholas" are varied, timely, interesting and instructive. Santa Claus has been specially lavish at this season to his worthy namesake.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE. (Rochester: James Vick.)—The new issue of this publication, so valuable to every one interested in gardening, is full of information compressed into small space. It contains two beautifully coloured plates and a rich profusion of delicate and accurate engraving.

THE BANQUET OF LOVE, by the Rev. Jacob Helfferstein, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This is a little book containing a series of brief meditations of a devotional and instructive character admirably fitted to be helpful to communicants.

KATIE'S CHRISTMAS LESSON. By Annie S. Swan. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—The authoress of "Aldersyde" possesses the happy faculty of writing a capital short story for young people. "Katie's Christmas Story" is true to nature and carries naturally an excellent moral.

THE BIOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE, an illustrated monthly. (New York: The Pictorial Associated Press.)—This is a new venture. The first issue contains a number of brief biographical sketches of distinguished people of every description, and with portraits of those who are prominently before the public. It supplies a want.

ELECTRA: A Belle Lattres Monthly for Young People. Edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn. (Louisville, Ky.: Isabella M. Leyburn.)—

The conductors of "Electra" have been successful in their efforts to make the holiday number of their excellent magazine for young people specially attractive. It contains a good selection of varied, interesting and instructive reading and several fine illustrations.

We have received "Topics for Prayer Meetings of 1884," a little book containing three hundred topics with Scripture selections suited to Church and other religious meetings. They are arranged under appropriate headings and adapted to meetings for Christians—the Unconverted Young Men, Temperance and the Sunday School Lesson—and will be helpful to ministers and others. The book can be obtained from R. C. Morse, secretary of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association, Twenty-third street, corner Fourth avenue, New York.

THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN Edited by Rev. Stephen D. Peck. (Chicago: Jameson & Morse.)

This publication, devoted to the advancement of antiquarian investigation, is valuable and interesting. The articles calling for special mention are "Native Races of Columbia," by E. G. Barney; "Mexican Antiquities," by L. P. Gratacap; "On the Gentile System of the Omahas," by Rev. J. Owen Dorsey; "Primitive North-West," by C. W. Butterfield; and "Babylonian and Assyrian Art," by W. S. C. Boscowen. A number of other brief articles pertaining to antiquarian lore complete the number.

HALF HOURS WITH THE LESSONS OF 1844. By

Twenty-four Presbyterian Clergymen. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.) Specially helpful as these "Half-Hours" have been in past years the present volume in point of ability and interest surpasses those that have gone before. Several of the ablest and best divines in the American Presbyterian Church have been engaged in the preparation of this volume. Some of them, like Dr. Marvin Vincent and others, have a world-wide reputation for the interest they take in the Sabbath school cause. No Sabbath school teacher that desires to be thoroughly efficient can afford to be without this most valuable aid in the work of preparation for the class.

AMONG THE ALASKANS. By Julia McNair Wright.

(Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This is one of the latest publications by the American Board. It gives in brief space an excellent account of the Alaskans, their modes and conditions of life. It contains a narrative of the hopeful missionary work at Fort Wrangel. Most excellent results have attended the efforts for Christianizing and civilizing the people of that northern region. The book was written before the recent troubles at the mission were made public, but as these have now been adjusted it may reasonably be expected that the good work will continue to advance. The book is well and copiously illustrated.

TRAPS FOR THE YOUNG. By Anthony Comstock.

(New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.) The author of this book has not written for the sake of effect. Neither has he sounded the depths of immorality that he might produce a sensational book. He has devoted many years of his valuable life to the preservation of the young especially from the paths of the destroyer. He has rendered noble service to the cause of humanity. He has unmasked the cunning wiles of those shameless beings who seek to gain a living by the moral corruption and ruin of their fellow-men. In the present work he points out the dangers that beset the young, and earnestly points out to parents, teachers and guardians of youth their duties and responsibilities in relation to those entrusted to their care. This book has a mission; it tells truths that need to be told, and that in such a manner as only a man of high moral purpose can.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—

The numbers of the "Living Age" for the weeks ending December 15th and 22nd, respectively, contain "The New Birth of Christian Philosophy," by William Barry, D.D. ("Contemporary Review"); "The Sun's Corona," by Richard A. Proctor ("Nineteenth Century"); "The Rock of Cashel" ("Month"); "An Annamese Decalogue" ("Saturday Review"); "Jews at Jobar" ("Saturday Review"); "Jersey" ("Macmillan's Magazine"); "French Convict Marriages" ("Chambers' Journal"); "Old Postal Days in San Francisco" ("Gentleman's Magazine"); "Beards" ("Spectator"); "The Copts" ("Contemporary Re-

view"); "Saint Teresa" ("Quarterly Review"); "The Modern Nebuchadnezzar" ("Longman's Magazine"); "Venice in the East-end" ("Pall Mall Gazette"); "The Mole" ("Chambers' Journal"); Mr Ruskin on "Punch" ("Pall Mall Gazette"), together with choice short stories, poetry and miscellany.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.) This favourite magazine begins the year in excellent style. The frontispiece is a speaking likeness of John G. Whittier, the Quaker poet, of whom there is an appreciative sketch, finely illustrated, by Harriet Prescott Spofford. Constance Fenimore Woolson, begins a most interesting series of papers, "At Mentone," beautifully and profusely illustrated; "The Old Packet and Clipper Service," contains graphic descriptions of an obsolete method of crossing the Atlantic, made all the more attractive by portraits of famous captains and famous clippers. Thomas Wentworth Higginson contributes an historical paper on "The Birth of a Nation," and William C. Prime gives a critical and biographical sketch of James Buchanan, of whom there is a good full-page portrait. E. P. Roe gives the second instalment of "Nature's Serial Story," and William Black makes a decidedly good beginning with his new novel, "Judith Shakespeare." The poetry and short stories are up to the usual high standard, as are also the other features of "Harper."

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE. (New York: The Century Co.)

The frontispiece in the current number of "The Century" is a well executed portrait of General Sherman, on whom there is an interesting paper by E. V. Smalley. Another paper of much interest is "Garfield in London," followed by an admirable description of the French Academy, under the title of the "Forty Immortals," with good portraits of the best known French writers of the day. A fine portrait of the Hindoo poetess, Toru Dutt, and a sketch of her life will be read with much interest. John Burroughs discourses with his accustomed raciness and gentility "On Wordsworth's Country," "Edinboro' Old Town," forms the subject of a first-rate paper, by Andrew Lang. The quaint and picturesque peculiarities of old Edinburgh architecture afford excellent scope for pictorial treatment, and the artist has been very successful in the illustrations that accompany this paper. In fiction, we have the conclusion of "The Bread-winners"; the third part of Mr. Cable's romance, "D. S. Sevier"; the second part of Robert Grant's New York story, "An Average Man"; and a humorous story by Frank R. Stockton, entitled, "His Wife's Deceased Sister." Poetry, plentiful and good, is given by a number of the best known writers of the day. Open Letters, Topics of the Time and Bric-a-brac, are this month unusually good.

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY. I. K. Funk, D.D.,

Editor.—(New York: Funk & Wagnalls.) The January number of the "Homiletic Monthly" is especially good. The sermonic department contains more than one strikingly original discourse. It opens with "Supernatural Answers to Prayer," by the Rev. A. Thurston Pierson, D.D., and is followed by a no less remarkable sermon from the text "Is there no Balm in Gilead," with "Poe's Raven"; or "Memory an Element of Retribution," as the chief illustration of the theme. "The International Sunday School Service" is ably treated by Rev. Joseph T. Duryea, D.D., R. S. McArthur, D.D., Joseph H. Rylance, D.D., and J. G. Merrill. Dr. James M. Sherwood conducts the Prayer-meeting Service department. The Revs. G. F. Pentecost, A. J. F. Behrends, D.D., and William Lloyd give the Congregational view of the "Best Method of Sermonizing." Dr. Philip Schaff writes on the "Oldest Christian Sermon, Prayer and Hymn," and Dr. Ormiston continues his "Commentary on the Epistle of James." In his number is begun a Symposium, the subjects for discussion being "Is the Darwinian Theory of Evolution Reconcilable with the Bible? If so, with what Limitations?" The opening paper—an able one—is by President McCosh. There is in addition, the usual amount of miscellaneous reading of special value to preachers. The current number of the "Homiletic Monthly" is one of more than usual excellence.

THE Rev. Dr. Fraser, Queensville, has received a call to Lake Shore and Leith in the Presbytery of Owen Sound.