

unwise to forecast. Before his final canonization takes place, it is now evident that the *advocatus diaboli* will have something to say. At all events, though Stanley is a man of great nobility of nature and though many men of high character and splendid abilities have traversed portions of the Dark Continent, Livingstone retains the highest place among those who have done so much to dispel the dense ignorance that brooded over so large a portion of the African continent. To this exalted position he is fully entitled. His indefatigable perseverance, singleness of aim, lofty purpose and desire for the promotion of Christian civilization sustained him on his lonely and adventurous journeys, long before the world took any notice of him or knew of his existence. His fame grew by degrees, culminated when the sad tidings of his death were definitely told, and has remained undimmed ever since. His whole conduct and bearing, and his gentle Christian behaviour won for him the confidence of all he came in contact with, and predisposed timid natives to look favourably on the European travellers and traders who came afterward. And it would have been well if the good impression made by Livingstone had not been so badly effaced as it has been by the traffic of the slavers and the no less demoralizing traffic of the rum traders.

Mr. Stanley has maintained the reputation he has deservedly made by his manly energy and rare executive ability. He has all the qualities that eminently fit him for the great work he has already achieved, and that may yet await him, should he accept the offer made him of the governorship of the Congo Free State. The controversy over the rear column of his late expedition in quest of Emin Pasha has raised a cloud around him from which it is likely he will emerge without serious hurt. It has gone too far, however, to remain in its present unsatisfactory state. The accounts are so contradictory, and the evidence on which some of the terrible charges rest are so unreliable, that in the interests of justice and for the maintenance of the good name of British explorers a full and exhaustive enquiry is imperative. This will likely be accomplished through the British courts of justice before which the case in one form is now pending. In reply to questioning the leader of the House of Commons intimated that there will be no Governmental enquiry as the expedition and its management were undertaken by private enterprise. There is no reason to regret this decision as the matter is likely to be thoroughly sifted judicially, so that the facts will become known and a reasonable conclusion reached as to the truth or falsity of the terrible tales recently told respecting the management of the rear column and the doings of its responsible officers. Enough, however, has been revealed to justify grave suspicions that the result of the conduct of that ill-fated portion of Stanley's expedition will reflect but little glory on those who were entrusted with its command. Some of these have gone beyond the sphere of human praise or blame, but this much has been made clear that in all future expeditions greater care must be taken in the selection of men whose general qualifications for such parts are beyond suspicion. Bull-dog courage is not such a rare quality as to overshadow all other characteristics; some regard must be had to the moral and intellectual endowments of men who, in addition to military fitness, must possess the attributes essential to their representative capacity. Britain, as the greatest of modern powers in the work of colonization, cannot afford to be indifferent to the capabilities of the men who do her pioneer work. It will take a long time for the best of missionaries to undo the evil work done by unfit explorers.

#### PUBLIC MEN SHOULD BE PURE.

PRESENT events in Great Britain are calling special attention to moral questions whose full discussion will in the end have an important bearing on the personal character of public men. Whether Mr. Parnell retires from the leadership of his party or persists in its retention is a matter of insignificance compared with the condonation of the moral and social crime that by his own action has been brought home to him, which his continuance in the position would imply. Happily the public conscience of Great Britain is not indifferent to the moral issue involved. No self-respecting country can afford to be indifferent as to the character of those whose abilities are employed in shaping its destinies. The outcome of the Parnell embroglio will be watched with keen interest far beyond the limits of Great Britain. Whatever may be the final resolve of the parties more immediately concerned,

it is even now apparent that the moral sentiment of the country will emphatically condemn the course the leader of the Irish parliamentary party has so defiantly pursued.

No one pretends that Parnell is innocent of the heinous moral offence with which he has been charged. It is occasionally hinted that there are extenuating circumstances. It is claimed by some that political animosity is behind the prosecution that closed so ignominiously for Mr. Parnell. Supposing such to be the case, that does not in any degree lessen the guilt of the parties chiefly implicated. Apart from moral considerations the Irish leader is rightly credited with possessing an uncommon degree of acuteness. Instead of complaining of the use that has been and will be made of the damaging facts by his political opponents, he might have known that such uses would be made of his painful lapse from virtue. It will be in the recollection of those who watch the progress of current events that when the immoralities connected with Dublin Castle were exposed the Parnellite party pressed home the charges with a vigour that strangely contrasts with the determination to rehabilitate their leader at all hazards. Immorality is not a heinous sin in one case and a venial offence in others. It is painfully true that partizans, whose grasp of principle is feeble, may pursue a fallen opponent with an almost relentless ferocity, but this does not meet the approval of fair-minded men who regard the maintenance of principle above party triumph. In the earlier stages of the controversy it is noticeable that those who felt most deeply persuaded that retirement was the only course open to Mr. Parnell, spoke with commiseration and grieved over his fall. That this is a proper and becoming attitude few who look dispassionately on public men and their doings will care to question. Pity for the individual offender is not incompatible with a robust and healthy repudiation of the crime he commits. When events like those now agitating the public mind occur, it is well to keep distinctly in view the fact that principles are concerned as well as individuals. If it is a question whether a principle or an individual must be sacrificed, it is better that principle be upheld even though the offending party has to go.

In this discussion it is significant that certain public men have spoken in a tone that fails to indicate a high moral grasp. Of late there have been too many painful disclosures of prevailing immorality, and Parnellite partizans, as well as others, have spoken as if the volume of indignant remonstrance was in part hypocritical, and only representative of the views of religious bodies, to whose prejudices it was attributed. So far as such speakers were concerned, they were above the weaknesses of being shocked by revelations of the kind. To some the great evil is in being found out. When moral laxity has reached the stage of talking superciliously in public, or anywhere else for that matter, of the popular sentiment in behalf of personal purity, it is high time to insist on evil being branded as evil! The disposition to talk scoffingly of this iniquity that is menacing social life, and invading the sanctity of home and palliating it because it is becoming common, is in itself alarming, and cannot be too severely condemned. Flip-pant talk because of the prevalence of immorality is indicative of relaxed moral fibre, and it should be made plain that such trifling ought to be met with stern rebuke.

Another matter for regret is what appears to be the unmitigated selfishness on the part of the chief public offender in this painful domestic tragedy. The consequences to others and the cause in connection with which he has made his political reputation are of no account in his eyes in comparison with the one fact that he must not be made to vacate the position he has disgraced. He is as unabashed as ever in the assertion at all hazards of what he conceives to be his personal rights. Of self-sacrifice he seems not to have the remotest conception. Neither in his manifesto nor elsewhere, so far as reported, has he admitted his grievous fault. Though the country was ringing with the incidents of the trial, when he allowed judgment to go against him by default, he has never made the slightest acknowledgment nor expressed the least regret for the disgrace in which he has involved himself. Popular opinion may be fickle, the daring audacity of an intense personality may largely presume, and meet with a degree of recognition, but to all intents and purposes the leadership of Parnell is over, for the moral sentiment of Great Britain can never respect a man who flagrantly violates the moral law, and then defies public sentiment. The men who lead in public life must be men the community can respect.

## Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—In giving a comprehensive view of the best current literature, the product of the best writers of the day, *Littell* stands unrivalled.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—The adaptation of this favourite monthly for its interesting class of readers is admirably maintained.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—Well-written papers on interesting, instructive and entertaining topics, good stories and fine illustrations make up an excellent series for the special benefit of youthful readers.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—As a frontispiece to this month's number there is a fine portrait of Rembrandt, painted by himself. The contents of the issue are attractive and varied, while the illustrations are both numerous and of excellent quality.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—The new number of *Scribner* is unusually good. It has not been unmindful of the season's requirements, and makes good its claim to be a holiday number. Apart from these special features the solid contents are in themselves great attractions. "Japonica" is the first of a series of papers on Japan by Sir Edwin Arnold. "A Pastoral Without Words," "Amy Robsart, Kenilworth and Warwick," "Neapolitan Art—Morelli" are certain to attract attention. Short stories in profusion and several meritorious poems add to the charm of this month's number.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The Shakespearean series of papers afford subjects for frontispiece and a readable paper by Andrew Lang on "As You Like It." "The Winter of Our Content," by Charles Dudley Warner, is a fine descriptive paper, finely illustrated, of Southern California. Theodore Child writes a most interesting paper on "A Pre-Raphaelite Mansion," of which the illustrations are artistic gems. Another paper of interest is "Japanese Women," by Pierre Loti. With the exception of the usual departments, admirably kept up, the rest of the number is devoted to Christmas literature, which is varied and attractive. The short stories are exceptionally good.

ANDOVER REVIEW. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—Professor George T. Ladd opens the December number of the *Andover* with an able and thoughtful paper on "Influence of Modern Psychology upon Theological Opinion." Mr. Wendell P. Garrison begins a series of papers on "The Preludes of Harper's Ferry"; the first deals with "John Brown, the Practical Shepherd." Miss Agnes Maule Machar's paper on "Thomas Erskine" is concluded. "Another Aspect of the 'Faerie Queen'" is presented by Miss Ellen Urania Clark, and Francis H. Johnson discourses on "What is Reality? Part I. Evolution." The other contents of the number are fresh, suggestive and stimulating. In a modest article the future promise and purpose of the *Review* are sketched.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW. (New York: Leonard Scott Publication Co.)—The *Westminster Review* for November, published in this country in the original English form, under authority of the English publishers, by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York, opens with a paper on "Popery and Home Rule," by Samuel Fothergill. A timely article by S. R. Van Campen on the "Political Position of Holland," gives an account of the political system of that country. Walter Lloyd reviews the famous book "Lux Mundi." Geoffrey Mortimer has a brief but thoughtful paper on "The Intellectual Cowardice of Woman." C. J. Rowe relates some amusing "Household Experiences in the Australian Colonies." David G. Ritchie sketches the life of George Buchanan. Richard G. Janon raises an interesting question in a paper entitled "Should the Universities be International?" The department of Contemporary Literature, one of the most valuable features of the *Westminster*, is especially full and interesting, containing brief but pointed reviews of the newest books. The number closes with the usual review of English Home Affairs.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—In all the sections of this most valuable periodical exclusively devoted to missions, there is much that will interest and inspire the growing number who are awaking to the importance of this, the distinctive work committed to the Christian Church. The department assigned to the Literature of Missions contains "Lord Stratford de Redcliffe," by Mrs. James S. Dennis, Syria; "An American 'Persis the Beloved,'" by Talbot W. Chambers, D.D.; "The Present Outlook in France," by Arthur T. Pierson, D.D.; "The Chinese Missionary Problem," by Rev. John Ross, North China; "Can We Trust the Mormon Saints?" by Rev. D. L. Leonard, D.D.; "The Mission in Basuto Land," by Andrew Thomson, D.D., Edinburgh; "A Spiritual Barometer," by Rev. R. W. Clark; "The Marvel of Modern Medical Missions," by Rev. A. McElroy Wylie; "Oriental Missions," by Dr. E. P. Thwing, and "Translations from Foreign Missionary Periodicals," by Rev. Charles C. Starbuck.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The December number has something of the holiday air about it, as some of the illustrations, poems and the unusual number of appropriate short stories indicate. There is a fine frontispiece, "Daphne," of a striking character, one of the *Century* series of American Pictures. California has a prominent place assigned to it. There is General John Bidwell's "Life in California Before the Gold Discovery," "Ranch and Mission Days in Alta California," and "Californiana." Salvini presents "Some Views on Acting." "The Border-Land of China" is a continuation of W. Woodville Rockhill's narrative of an adventurous journey. Lyman Abbott discusses the question: "Can a Nation have a Religion?" Among the poetical contributions to the number is one by Austin Dobson and another by a Canadian poet, William Willfred Campbell. The story-writers are Joel Chandler Harris, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Richard Harding Davis, Maurice Thompson, and in addition there is the newly-begun serial "Colonel Carter, of Cartersville," and the first instalment of a new three-part story, "Sister Dolorosa," by James Lane Allen.