

all causes produce an immediate change of character. Nor should it be forgotten that they are not alone in the practice of these discreditable vices. The white people of this continent are not scrupulously truthful. While they may not have the reputation of ridding hen coops as a distinctive feature of dishonesty, it is, nevertheless, true that people can be fraudulent on a much more gigantic scale. Defaulters whose speculations reach thousands of dollars, and ringsters of Star Route celebrity, leave the petty larcenies of their sable brethren far behind. Neither can they urge the same pleas for their rascality that Cassar and Chloe can offer for their crookedness. The coloured people of the South have, all things considered, been a remarkably inoffensive and industrious race. Many of them are now extensive property owners and advancing in intelligence and well-doing.

In the Southern States the coloured population is increasing in a surprising ratio. The census of 1880 shows that, while the white people increased at the rate of twenty per cent. in ten years, the rate of increase among the coloured people has, in the same time, been thirty-five per cent. Frederick Douglass, who forty years ago urged with passionate eloquence the emancipation of his people, and still their most powerful spokesman, has been discussing the probable future of his race on this continent. Three possibilities he says have been suggested: (1) Colonization in Africa; (2) extinction through poverty, disease and death; and (3) assimilation and unification with the great body of the American people. Great hopes were for a time entertained of African colonization. It was fondly hoped that Liberia would attract the more adventurous and enterprising freedmen and their families. What the Pilgrim Fathers had been to this continent the coloured adventurers from the west would be to equatorial Africa. If not altogether a failure, at all events the Liberian venture has not proved a brilliant success. A few days since an utterly disgusted and disheartened party returned to the United States with doleful tales of failure. They stated that numbers would gladly return had they the means of leaving the inhospitable shores of Africa. Race vitality disposes of the supposition that the coloured people are doomed to speedy extinction. Will they unite with the white people of the Southern States? There is nothing to indicate that they will. It is not improbable that a great and vigorous coloured population will inhabit the gulf States and exert a powerful influence. In view of this probable future a great responsibility rests on the American Church and nation. It is the province of the latter to provide for their education and training in the rights and duties of citizenship, and of the former to imbue them with moral and religious truth so that their future may be prosperous and peaceful.

**PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.**—This court met on the 8th inst. Present, seventeen ministers and ten elders. The minutes of March and April having been sustained, a long discussion ensued as to what part of these minutes should be entered into the permanent record, in so far as these minutes recorded the various steps taken in a case of discipline. It was finally agreed that a selection should be made for the permanent record, and a committee was appointed to make the selection and report. The case of discipline referred to had resulted in the suspension from the ministry and from the membership of the church of the Rev. J. Edgar, M.A. The Clerk reported that the Synod had granted permission to take Mr. James Ballantyne on trial for license, and that the moderator *pro tempore* and himself had prescribed for him the trial, and the report was received and approved. The call from Millbank to Mr. A. H. Kippen was then taken up. The congregation represented that they agreed to pay \$600 as an annual stipend, half-yearly in advance, together with a free manse and a glebe of fourteen acres. The call was sustained, and the necessary steps ordered. Trowbridge having been transferred to Maitland Presbytery, its name was removed from the roll. Assembly's remit on Standing Committees was, in the main, approved. The remit on Examining Board was, after much discussion, disapproved. Presbytery learned with much regret of the continued illness of Mr. J. K. Hislop. Presbytery recommended its ministers and people to co-operate in the endeavour to raise an endowment fund for Knox College. Notice was read of application to receive as a licentiate Mr. J. M. Robertson.

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

**MASTERY.** Useful Pastimes for Young People. (New York: Mastery, 842 Broadway).—This is a new magazine for the young. It is designed to amuse, instruct and render young people practical. Its object may best be gathered by what it promises in its first number: "Our single promise will be that, in every instance, the spirit and matter of 'Mastery' shall be pure and wholesome. Its great purpose is to stimulate useful as well as pleasurable activities, to develop kindly feeling not less than working facility and exactness of knowledge, and to help make the pastimes of youth a training school for active life." It is got up with rare good taste; the illustrations are clear, distinct and intelligible; the printing and paper are excellent. The field it seeks to occupy is a large and important one, and "Mastery" will doubtless be a brilliant success.

**THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY.** (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.) The May number of this useful serial opens with a sermon on "The Time, Manner and Purpose of Christ's Advent," by William M. Taylor, D.D. The contents of this number are specially rich. Dr. Joseph Parker discourses on "Divine Care of Life," Dr. Rylance on "Our Ignorance of the State after Death," Bishop Fellows, Reformed Episcopal, on "Suppressed Lives," Dr. Ludlow on "An Unshaken Faith," Dr. Vaughan on "The Soul Trouble of our Saviour," and C. H. Spurgeon on "Hands full of Honey." The first of a series of papers on "Critical Estimates of several Preachers," by Dr. John A. Broadus, is begun in this number. Dr. Ormiston continues his "Commentary, Exegetical, and Homiletical on the Epistle of James." Then there is the usual variety of interesting material regularly furnished in the pages of this publication specially designed for the preacher's assistance.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.** (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Company).—This massive quarterly is a clear proof that the Presbyterian Church of the United States, whatever the active demands on her ministry may be, is not indifferent to the cultivation of a standard theological literature. Among the contributors to this number are Professors Robert W. Patterson, Llewellyn J. Evans, and Francis L. Patton, Drs. J. H. McIlvane, Edward P. Humphery and the Rev. Joseph K. Wright. The questions discussed are "The Second Advent not Premillennial," "The Holy Sabbath," "Doctrinal Significance of the Revision," "Presbyterianism in its Relation to Congregationalism," "Revised Book of Discipline," "The Dogmatic Aspect of Pentateuchal Criticism." In addition to these there are the usual notes and notices, and very copious and discriminating "Reviews of Recent Theological Literature." The readers of the "Presbyterian Review," are kept fully informed of all that is latest and best in the range of theological research.

**THE BIOGRAPHER.** (New York: 23 Park Row.)—This is a new literary venture and one no doubt that will meet with encouraging success. To the general reader it will prove a most useful help. The first issue contains quite a number of biographical sketches of celebrities in almost every sphere. The sketches are brief, and aim at presenting the salient points in the career of the subject, the outline of whose story is told. "The Biographer" is susceptible of improvement. There is no visible principle of arrangement. People of all professions are mixed up in the most promiscuous fashion. Neither is the accuracy of its information to be entirely depended on. In the brief sketch of Sir John A. Macdonald, for instance, we are told that many thinkers in both countries are of opinion that it would be advantageous for Canada to form part of the Federation that has its headquarters at Washington. Then it tells us that Sir John's birthplace is at Kingston and that he was born in 1815. The year is correct, but the place is not. Glasgow is the natal city of the Canadian Premier.

**THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.** (Columbia, S. C.: The Presbyterian Publishing House).—It is not merely a courteous thing to say that this quarterly deservedly occupies a prominent place among the best publications of sacred literature on this continent. It has an excellent staff of able contributors. The popular impression is that quarterlies are from their very nature dull and ponderous. If such be the case then the "Southern" is a marked exception. Nor, on the other hand, are the subjects discussed in a super-

ficial and unsatisfactory manner. It written in a clear and readable style, they are exhaustive in the treatment of the questions selected. The contents of the last issue of the "Southern Presbyterian" are "The Foreign Evangelist, as viewed by One in the Foreign Field," "The Jurisdiction of the Evangelist," "Fraternal Relations," by Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans; "The Church's Method of Conducting the Foreign Missionary Work," "A Thoroughly Educated Ministry," "Political Religion," and an able and elaborate paper on "Dr. Edwin A. Abbott on the Genuineness of Second Peter," by Professor Warfield of Allegheny Theological Seminary. Not the least valuable part of this admirable "Review" is the rapid yet discriminating notice of "Recent Publications," with which it closes.

**THE HOMILETIC MAGAZINE.** (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.).—The April number of the "Homiletic Magazine" opens with a sermon on "Elijah's Vision," by E. Bersier, D.D. Under the caption, "Practical Homiletics," we have "Faith and its Heroes," by Rev. John Telford, B.A.; "Reversings," by Rev. J. Edgar Henry, M.A.; "Power in Weakness," by Rev. Frederick Whitfield, M.A.; "Untimely Sunset," by S. T.; "A Sad Contrast," by Rev. Canon C. Clayton, M.A.; and "Sowing on the Waters; or the Reward of Unselfish Benevolence," by Rev. A. F. Muir, M.A. The sketch of Scripture character is the "Wife of the Kenite; or Trust and Treachery," by Rev. Fred. Hastings. "The Clerical Symposium" contains the fourteenth contribution on the "Scriptural Doctrine of the Atonement." The present paper is by Rev. Paton J. Gloag, D.D., and the first paper on "The Revelations of Himself by God to Men," by Rev. W. Roberts. The "Expository Section," presents rare attractions this month. "The Prophet Zecariah, chap. ix. 11-17," by Rev. W. Lindsay Alexander; "Christian Riches," by Rev. H. L. Martensen, D.D. "The Epistle to the Philippians, its Exegesis and Theology," by Rev. W. B. Pope, D.D., and the "Lamb in the Midst of the Throne," by the author of the "Truce of God." In the "Miscellaneous Section" there is a paper by Dr. Luthardt, of Leipsic, on "Sermons in Stones." This brief outline of the contents of this number will show that it is a valuable one.

**LORENZO AND OTHER POEMS.** By J. E. Pollock, B.A. (Toronto: William Briggs).—In a modest preface the author informs his readers that most of the poems in this little volume have already appeared in periodicals; they are now placed together in more permanent form. He is fully aware that there is not a great demand for poetry in these days. His venture none the less deserves a cordial welcome. This is a busy age; but work will go forward all the more vigorously if toil is cheered by the poet's song. Mr. Pollock is welcomed all the more heartily because he is a Canadian poet, and several of his lyrics are suggested by Canadian themes. Some of these minor poems are especially good, such as "Indian Summer," the "Battle of the Plains of Abraham," and some others. The poem from which the volume takes its title, "Lorenzo," the author informs us was suggested by Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner." Like its great original it is in narrative form, though only the first part finds a place in the present publication. It contains some vigorous and graphic descriptive touches, and an occasional thrill of weird grandeur. The artistic finish of this poem, however, is far too incomplete. The rhythm and versification are occasionally harsh, several of the lines containing an extra syllable. A little more careful revision would easily remedy these defects that mar enjoyment in the reading of this interesting poem. It appears all the more inexcusable since the author in much more difficult measures has shown himself an adept. We bespeak for this little volume of a Canadian poet a cordial reception.

**RECEIVED:** "The American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal," for April. (Chicago: Jameson and Morse).—"New Testament Autographs," by J. Rendel Harris. (Baltimore: Publication Agency, Johns Hopkins University).—"Pleasant Places by the Shore and in the Forests of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, via the Intercolonial Railway." (Toronto: A. H. Dixon).—"The Tourist's World." (New York and London: E. M. Jenkins).—"Detroit and the Pleasure Resorts of Northern Michigan." (Detroit: The Passenger Department of the Detroit, Lansing, and Northern Railroad.)