

basket. The Louisiana lottery has plied them with a temptation they were unable to resist. Some of them have drawn trivial prizes they were permitted to pocket for the purpose of keeping up the illusion and tempting them to throw good money after bad. The many have had the enjoyment of parting with hard earned money to those who both toil and spin as the spider toils and spins to lure the unsuspecting victims into his web.

The American authorities are convinced that it is high time to put an effective check on this lottery business. The Postmaster-General has issued orders forbidding the transmission of lottery circulars through the post-office, and declining the payment of money-orders to lottery agents in New Orleans. Those whose craft is endangered by this salutary action have not acquiesced in it willingly. They have carried their appeals to the court as a last resort, and at length the order of the Postmaster has been sustained. While the appeal was pending the order was held in abeyance, but now it is announced that it will be enforced. This action will strike a heavy blow at the southern lotteries. They will be very much impaired, but it is to be feared they will continue on a much restricted scale. Those who engage in such methods of gaining money have ingenuity and cunning sufficient to enable them to evade the mode of restriction now to be put in force. The evil is blighted, not uprooted.

With this, as with other popular vices, a healthier tone of moral feeling is requisite. Laws for their repression are right and proper, but no law, however just can be effectively carried out unless sustained by the moral sense of a community. Where there is a sneaking fondness for the evil proscribed, there is always a degree of laxity in the enforcement of the law. There are people who avow that they see no evil in a lottery. When they have a chance to invest their money in one, the fact that it is forbidden by law will not deter them. The slender hope of drawing a prize is sufficient to over-ride all other considerations. The habit of betting on almost all contingents events has much to answer for in preparing a promising field for lottery speculators. An election, a boat race, or a trotting match invariably occasions a betting mania. The sum staked may in many instances be small. The results are by no means insufficient. They increase the force of the gambling fever and spread the demoralization it always occasions. Those who in an apologetic way plead for gambling point to operations in stocks and say that if gambling in lotteries is bad so is stock gambling. In this they are quite right. Gambling is evil wherever it is found. The object with which it is associated does not disinfest its character. A lottery for church purposes does not make gambling holy, though a law on our statute books with a mysterious lenity legitimizes church lotteries within certain limits.

THE SCOTT ACT IN HALTON.

THE annual convention of the Halton County Branch of the Ontario Prohibitory Alliance was held recently. The principal topic of consideration at this anniversary was the working of the Scott Act in the County of Halton. The Act has now been in force in that county sufficiently long to produce appreciable results. The effort to secure the adoption of the Scott Act in Halton, occasioned great excitement on the part of its friends and opponents. Feeling ran high. By the one party every effort was made to secure the adoption of the measure; nothing was left undone by the other to insure its defeat. The friends of temperance were successful in the contest, but the discussion has never yet entirely ceased. The losing cause has by no means been silent. In local journals the zealous correspondent waxes eloquent on the evasions of the law, and with the most discouraging failure, seeks to make out a case that the prohibition of the sale of liquor in the county of Halton is encouraging drunkenness in certain cases.

Those who get intoxicated "on principle" are not numerous, nor likely to become so. What is the principle according to which the fervent opponents of "sumptuary" laws feel constrained by duty to get drunk? Is it that they are affected by the irritating power of the law, or are they impelled by the highest form of self-sacrifice? They are prepared to sacrifice much in order that facilities for drinking may be afforded to the people who are least able to stand temptation. They are willing to endanger health, domestic comfort, reputation, and what modicum of com-

mon sense they have been blessed with in order that intoxicating drink may be within easy reach of the masses. In fact they are willing to risk a species of martyrdom, rather than yield to the tyranny of temperance. It is to be hoped the few who are ingenious enough to put the blame of their intemperate habits on the Scott Act will receive the sympathy and esteem they deserve. They are not a numerous class. Good men are all too scarce!

The delegates to the recent Halton convention were unanimous in their testimony concerning the beneficial effects of the Scott Act. It had done much to repress intemperance. To many it had been a great boon. The removal of temptation had made sober men of several, formerly addicted to drinking habits. It was at the same time admitted that drunkenness had not been entirely suppressed in the county. Drink could be obtained in towns, and of course introduced from adjoining counties.

The convention recommended the appointment of Vigilance Committees throughout the county, to aid in enforcing the law. Considerable dissatisfaction was also expressed with the lax manner in which the License Inspector performed his duties. There is an impression that the present official is not in sufficient sympathy with the Scott Act. The convention has made a representation to Government on the subject. The friends of temperance have good reason to be satisfied with the results of the first year's operation of the Scott Act in Halton County.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper and Brothers.) This weekly magazine is eagerly looked for by the young people in these latitudes, as it cannot fail to be everywhere. It maintains its high place, and that is a foremost one in the rank of children's magazines.

RECREATIONS. By E. A. Stafford, A.B. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—This is a small volume of poems by a very popular Methodist minister. The longest and the best poem in the volume is "Homeward." It abounds in thoroughly good description, and contains many excellent and profitable reflections. The little volume is neatly got up, and the printing is clear and beautiful.

WOMAN AT WORK. (Brattleboro' Vt.: Frank E. Housh.)—As the title indicates this is a publication in the interest of ladies. It claims to be "a literary magazine devoted to the record and encouragement of Woman's Work." The variety of the contents, the ability with which many of the articles are written, and the general tone of the publication justify the claim. There are several serial stories in the present number. It also contains a portrait of Lucretia Mott, who forms the subject of the opening article.

CASSELL'S FAMILY MAGAZINE. (Toronto: J. P. Clougher.)—This favourite monthly is really what its title imports, a "family magazine." It is as it deserves to be a welcome guest in many homes. The tone of the publication is thoroughly healthy. Articles on almost every subject of home interest, serial tales, poetry, sketches and appropriate selections make an excellent number for July. A "Family Parliament" affords a convenient opportunity for the discussion of current topics of general interest, the debate in the present number being on the question "Is it Wise to Promote Emigration?" "Cassell's Family Magazine" has also a large number of excellent illustrations.

THE BYSTANDER. (Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.)—The publication of the "Bystander" has been assumed as a "Quarterly Review of current events, Canadian and General," instead of a monthly serial as formerly. The new mode of publication has its advantages. The contents of the "Bystander" are more likely to receive thoughtful consideration than a monthly issue would be able to secure. The claims of business are so absorbing that far too little time is left for reading. The conditions of Canadian life are not so favourable to literary culture as they will yet become. The "Bystander" is to be commended in that it occupies a distinctive place in Canadian literature, and it is admirably fitted to aid its development. Goldwin Smith wields a facile pen. There is a charm in his style that no reader can resist, however much, in some of his opinions, he may differ from him. These opinions are expressed with a manly freedom that entitle them to the fullest consideration. What

the "Bystander" says on any subject of current interest is sure of a respectful hearing. The present number contains reflections on the principal political occurrences of the last quarter, and as a consequence the subjects discussed in the late parliamentary session occupy a prominent place in its pages. The contributions to Canadian literature are briefly noticed. There are incisive notices of the leading events in the United States, England and on the continent of Europe. Under Thought and Opinion there are characteristic notes on "Mrs. Carlyle's Letters," "Genius and Morality," "Materialism and Morality," "Methodist Union" and other topics in which many just opinions are expressed. "The Bystander" by its ability and excellence will maintain for itself a high place in public esteem.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. J. Sanderson, D.D., Managing Editor. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The third number of this new publication has now been issued. It is growing in excellence and value. The wide diffusion of the discourses of some of the most prominent representatives of evangelical theology must have a beneficial influence. To those engaged in the active work of the ministry, such a magazine will prove of great value in making them acquainted with the style of pulpit ministration which some of the leading churches enjoy. It is sometimes objected that such publications are a temptation to mental indolence. This would be a manifest perversion of their purpose. No minister of any intellectual independence would dream of using this and similar magazines as other than suggestive and instructive aids to faithful study of the truth for his own sake and for the benefit of those he addresses. "The Pulpit Treasury" is distinctively evangelical, while it is undenominational. Representative men in the various branches of the Church contribute to its pages. The principal discourses in this number are by Rev. J. H. Vincent, D.D., on "A Present Incarnation," Rev. S. I. Curtiss, D.D., on "Is there Probation after Death?" a communion discourse on "Gethsemane in Prospect" by B. M. Palmer, D.D., and a Children's Service; "The Prayer of the Warrior Jew," by Rev. J. R. Macduff, D.D. The subject of the Ministerial Sketch in this number is Dr. J. H. Vincent, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a famous worker in the cause of the Sabbath school. There is a portrait of Dr. Vincent and an engraving of the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington. The selections are remarkably copious, varied and useful. The substantial merits of the "Pulpit Treasury" ought to insure its success.

THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW. (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)—This high-class theological quarterly is an evidence that scholarship is sedulously cultivated and largely appreciated in the American Presbyterian Church. Readers no doubt could be found who would prefer shorter papers and more variety than those that find a place in the "Presbyterian Review"; there are others who would be disappointed were the subjects selected less exhaustively treated than they are in its pages. The opening article, in an excellent spirit, discusses "Modern Miracles." It is based on a criticism of the opinions advanced in Rev. A. J. Gordon's "The Ministry of Healing," Rev. W. E. Boardman's "The Great Physician," and Dr. Theodore Christlieb's "Modern Doubt and Christian Belief." The main theme discussed in the article is the Faith Cure. It is from the pen of Dr. Marvin Vincent, and is worthy of careful perusal. Professor S. H. Kellogg, D.D., institutes a careful comparison of "The Doctrines of the Buddha and the Doctrines of the Christ." A thoughtful paper on "Infant Salvation and its Theological Bearings" is by Professor George L. Prentiss, D.D.; and Oscar Craig submits "Spencer's Philosophy and Theism" to a careful and candid examination. By far the longest of the Notes and Notices is devoted to a review of the work of the late General Assembly at Saratoga. Dr. A. A. Hodge gives a summary of the proceedings in which a number of clear, crisp, critical notes are interspersed. This is followed by a learned exegetical note on II Peter ii. 8, and a critical notice of the Journal of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. Large space is devoted to critical notices of noteworthy books recently published in the departments of Exegetical, Historical, Systematic and Practical Theology and General Literature. These notices are compact and well written estimates of the more important works recently issued from the press. The present number of the "Presbyterian Review" is solid, substantial and instructive.