

continue to employ them. It is not too much to say that the financial outlook for our church at this date has not been so grave for many years. At the end of March \$90,000 will be due for Home Missions and Augmentation. It is humiliating to curtail work such as our church is engaged in for want of money which our people have and by means of which this could be avoided. It is more humiliating still not to be able to pay our debts to missionaries and ministers on small stipends, when the means to do so are in the hands of members of our church. It makes one's heart ache to think of what this means to many a hard working missionary or underpaid minister and his family. "Bear ye one another's burdens" is a divine command resting upon all Christians, resting with special weight upon brethren of the same denomination. The members of our church have now a splendid opportunity to illustrate the beauty and excellence of this precept. Judging from communications on this subject sent us, such as that of Dominion in last week's issue, and others which we publish this week, there is a spirit of anxiety beginning to pervade the church and a desire to come to its help at this crisis. From the reports of congregations also, it does not appear that deficit at the close of the year should be unavoidable. Generally they are most encouraging and many of them speak of a balance on hand of contributions for the schemes of the church. Such balances should at once be forwarded to Dr. Reid. No doubt many in our church have only by the exercise of self-denial been able this year to keep up their former rate of giving, and many have had to reduce their amounts. But yet there is no doubt the money is in our church to meet every obligation, and can be spared, if only all will rise up to their duty and their privilege. While if only the matter is rightly gone about, a great number, we are persuaded, will make an effort to help at this time, there are two classes upon whom a special responsibility rests, and who if they are only willing are able by the blessing of God to meet this emergency, and should rejoice to do it. They are, first, our ministers, and next our members whom God has blessed and entrusted with wealth. In a large number of our churches are men so situated through God's goodness to them, that the stringency of business for one year affects them but little if at all. If our ministers in such churches are duly alive to the great interests of the work and kingdom of Christ as represented by our church, and have a heart of compassion for their brethren who must suffer real hardship unless relief comes to them, they can avert the evil which is threatened. Let them in whatever way they consider wisest and best, appeal to their congregations, and especially to the wealthy, now to render to the Lord what they owe Him for all His benefits, to prove by actual trial that "it is more blessed to give than to receive," and we are confident that the year will close upon us without a deficit, without our missionaries' hearts being saddened and discouraged, their families suffering and their work dragging or arrested. There is great force in the arguments urged by our correspondent "A.B." and surely it cannot, will not be, that all this enthusiasm for missions and for the cause of Christ which has been kindled in this city and beyond it by the late convention will end in a mere effervescence of sentiment with no practical, visible results in the way of self-sacrifice, and an increasing, hearty, liberal giving both of ourselves and what we possess for the support and spread of the cause and kingdom of our blessed Lord, whether at home or abroad. Our church at the present juncture is making a loud call to all her ministers and men of wealth especially to come to the help of the Lord.

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

THIS is one of a series of pamphlets which our Foreign Mission Committee proposes to publish concerning all our mission fields under its care. The one before us is on Central India, and has been written by Rev. Dr. MacLaren. No one probably in the whole church is better qualified to give a full account of this mission than is Professor MacLaren. He knows its whole history from its inception up to the present moment. On the last page of the cover is a map of India, showing Central India and all our stations there, quite a thing of interest in itself. On the first inside page of the cover is a list of all our missionaries now in the field, the stations where they are placed, and

the date of their appointment. In addition is a list of those who have been retired, or removed by death, and when, with the date also of their designation. The pamphlet gives in brief, compact, and readable form a large amount of information, which cannot be got gathered together anywhere else of the peoples and religions of India, their claims upon us, the origin and growth of our mission, the difficulties, discouragements and encouragements it has met with, the various agencies at work, its present needs, and the tokens of success and blessing which God has granted to the prayers and labors and gifts of His servants on the field and those at home. As we have said, others are to be prepared dealing with other fields. The pamphlet is neatly got up, so compact, so readable and cheap, four or five cents, that it should be scattered by tens of thousands over the church and read in every household. If hearty efforts are made in this direction by ministers and others interested in missions, valuable results should follow the publication of this series on the Foreign Missions of our church.

THE meeting of Mission Bands and Woman's Foreign Missionary Auxiliaries called in Old St. Andrew's last Thursday evening to hear an address from Miss Marion Oliver, M.D., from Indore, was well attended and interesting. Mrs. Ewart presided with her usual ability and on the platform beside her were several ladies well known for their interest in the work of the W. F. M. S. The subject of Miss Oliver's address was "Open Doors" now in India for missionary work. Railway travelling and the multiplication of railways were mentioned as making an open door for mission work. There was now an open door and a great necessity for a truly Christian literature for India, and as education spreads an increasing necessity. There is a wide open door for medical missions, and Zenana work. The Mass movement among the Mangs and other tribes is an open door, and, above all, Sunday schools and the instruction of the young under Christian influences is a wide open door and in the young lies to-day the hope of India. The meeting was closed with an earnest appeal from Mrs. Ewart for more definiteness of prayer on the part of those present as to what their specific work for Christ should be, and where He would have them labor.

THE subject of education in connection with missionary work was referred to again in the missionary convention and while it was not denied or spoken lightly of, it was the concurrent and strong opinion of all who spoke, that there should in every case be first conversion, then education, but until conversion, education was waste if not something worse than waste of money and effort. First disciple, then teach.

SPEAKING of the Church at Home, Dr. MacKay said its condition when he went to Formosa might be called the Ice age; thirteen years ago when he was here it was the Water Age; the ice had begun to thaw; now it was the Steam age. There was machinery, machinery until he was bewildered and lost amid all the societies, activity on every hand and so many meetings that he was afraid that family life was in danger of being altogether lost. This danger he emphasized and it needs to be, for here is the basis of all else.

IN one of his missionary addresses, the Rev. Dr. Gordon, in referring to the idea of getting the whole visible church on earth united into one great compact body, said that he had no sympathy with such an aim. History showed that the tendency of such large organizations was to become sluggish. With regard to the church's great work to preach Christ and reflect His divine character, he used this illustration: A mirror is useful to reflect the image of the observer. One mirror will do that, but suppose it falls and is broken into a hundred pieces, each piece will equally reflect the features of the beholder, so each Christian church holding by the Head, preaching Christ, living Christ serves to reflect His likeness before men and win them to Him.

On account of press of matter of various kinds, many reports of congregational meetings, and some of Presbyteries, and Presbyterial W. F. M. S. meetings, are unavoidably delayed for the present, but will appear as rapidly as possible.—(ED.)

## Books and Magazines.

LOOKING WITHIN. THE MISLEADING TENDENCIES OF "LOOKING BACKWARD" MADE MANIFEST. By J. W. Roberts. New York: A. S. Barnes & Company.

The novel with a purpose has always been more or less a subject of controversy among critics. We have had social, moral, religious, political, agnostic and theological novels, and now we are getting socio-economic novels. Dickens assails the evils of some kinds of private schools, of poor houses, of the Court of Chancery and the Circumlocution Office, and Charles Reade those of Trades Unions and private mad-houses; but Dickens and Reade were literary artists whose example should not be rashly followed by every one who has a theory to exploit or imagines he has a mission to reform or remodel the social and economic conditions of the world. This book, as the title indicates, is intended to counteract the influence of Bellamy's "Looking Backward," which, on account of its novelty and to some extent its opportuneness, had an extraordinary and, as we think, an undeserved popularity. As must be inevitable in such a work the story, which of course is quite subordinate, is smothered by argument and endless discussion. The result is that very few will be tempted to read the work for the story and those who are interested in the problems with which it deals will be inclined, without examination, to ignore or despise it. The object of the book is to demonstrate the utter futility of Bellamy's ideal paternal government. "Any system which removes personal interest in what one does, or personal responsibility for the manner of doing it, or for actions in general, from the individual to the central power, must fail. What a man has no personal interest in, he cannot love. What he cannot claim as his own, he ceases to cherish. The governmental care of all things removes all incentive to activity or desire to excel. . . . Apathy is the word which most nearly expresses the feeling of men, and the spirit which pervades all the avenues of activity—or what should be activity—in the land. It is an apathy which is the precursor of dissolution or the harbinger of speedy decay. As a story it cannot be commended, but as a presentation of social, political and economic theories those who are interested in such studies may find in its pages food for thought and reflection and possibly a stimulus for effort.

The following Easter music, etc., is from W. A. Pond & Co., New York. Two anthems, Alleluia! Alleluia! tenor and bass solos, soprano and contralto duet, octavo, R. W. Crowe, Mus. Doc. Cantab, and Lift Your Glad Voices. Soprano and alto or bass solos, octavo, W. E. Haesche; No. 9 of Easter Sunday school services, by H. P. Danks; Easter Carol Annuals Nos. 20 and 21, and a large number of bright, new Easter Carols in cheap form by such authors as H. P. Danks, etc.; also, I will Lift up Mine Eyes, trio; All Hail to the New-Risen Lord, Easter soprano song; Sing, my Soul, His Wondrous Love, trio, J. B. Marsh; Come see the place, soprano, R. Lloyd; Easter Morn, soprano and alto keys, W. O. Wilkinson; The Conqueror, festival song, soprano, E. A. Parsons; Sweetest Words, love song, soprano, D. Gillette; A simple Fantasia, on Old Black Joe and others, F. W. Meacham; Eulalia Quickstep, for guitar and two mandolins, C. de Janow; Busy at the Club, comic song, J. Gro.

With the February number the *Canadian Magazine* completes its first year of publication, and the success it has achieved in this short time should be extremely gratifying both to the editor and the publishers. The number opens with a learned, but very readable paper on "the American Indian" by Prof. John Campbell, of Montreal. Hon. David Mills, Rev. Frederick George Scott and Dr. Scadding contribute articles, while the poetry of the number is by Miss Machar, Chancellor Rand, A. F. Chamberlain and others.

The *Arena* for February opens with a paper by Rev. W. J. Savage on "The Religion of Browning's Poetry," a fine portrait of the poet being the frontispiece of the number. Other articles in a strong number are "The relation of the Land Question to other Reforms" by J. G. Bellangee, "The new Bible" by Washington Gladder, D.D., and a symposium on "National Dress Reform," with many illustrations.

We have just received two fine Easter anthems, also a church solo, from J. Fisher & Bro., New York. Jesus Christ is Risen To-day, and Wake, ye that Sleep, both by the well-known anthem composer, M. A. Melvil. Lead, Kindly Light, by J. Wiegand, a really pretty duet for soprano and alto to the familiar hymn of Mr. Newman.

That indispensable monthly for young folks, *St. Nicholas*, looks more attractive than ever in its very pretty and artistically designed cover. The contents of the February number are unusually attractive, "Tiger! Tiger!" by Rudyard Kipling being one of the most noticeable pieces. Other contributors are Brander Matthews, Mark Twain and Mrs. Jamison.

In the February *Cosmopolitan* Mr. L. Marold, a distinguished French artist makes his first appearance as a magazine illustrator on this continent, the frontispiece and the illustrations to Mr. A. S. Hardy's "A Rejected Manuscript" being from his pencil. The number is rich both in pictorial and literary matter.

In the February *Sanitarian* there is an interesting article by our old friend Wolfred Nelson, on "Jamaica for Health and Pleasure." Dr. Nelson speaks very highly of Jamaica and says its Government is doing everything possible to make it "the winter island for excellence for Americans and Canadians."

The *Knox College Monthly* for February has, in addition to much interesting editorial matter, a number of able and thoughtful papers on timely subjects by such writers as Rev. H. Gracey, Rev. J. Somerville, M.A., Rev. J. B. Edmondson and Rev. J. MacGillivray, B.D.

A new song is Always be True to your Mother, C. Baker, published by F. W. Helmick, 265 Sixth St., New York.