

that was picturesque and suitable for his Waverley series and his historical volumes. Others with a truer insight into the meaning of the movement, have placed the chief personages and incidents in a more favourable light; yet it seems to us that the true history of the Scottish Covenant yet remains to be written. The highest genius is none too good for the accomplishment of the task. There is no reason why, in capable hands, it could not be made as interesting as "The Rise of the Dutch Republic," or "The Short History of the English People."

In the work before us Mr. Johnston, who has not aspired to write a history of the Covenant, has rendered the task much easier either for himself or another to produce a work for which there is yet a vacant place in Scottish literature. Mr. Johnston's purpose has been to present in succinct and methodical form all the material essential to an intelligent and comprehensive knowledge of the religious movement in Scotland from the days of the Reformation to our own times. In this he has been very successful. His completed work bears evidence of intelligent and judicious care. Both in what has been omitted and what he has given there is evidence of sound discretion and a just appreciation of what is due to historical perspective. A large part of the work is devoted to Historic Documents. Some of these appear in full, and from others relating to every successive event copious excerpts are given. The perusal of these alone will give the reader a clear and concise view of all that is most memorable in the stirring years to which they relate. The second part of the volume is devoted to the Bibliography of the Covenant, and here the reader will find a guide to all that has been written noteworthy or otherwise on the subject. The concluding division of the work tells of the Prisons of the Scottish Covenanters, their tombstones and monuments, the Reliques of the Covenant, and, lastly, its treatment in art, the volume closing with a Retrospect and Forecast, written in an excellent and charitable spirit. As a whole the work is most valuable, and all into whose hands it may come will be sure to prize highly the "Treasury of the Scottish Covenant."

A CENTRAL INDIA HIGH SCHOOL.

Now that our prominent educational institutions have concluded their season's work with brilliant celebrations, it may be interesting to cast a glance at a somewhat similar ceremony in Central India. The *Central India Times*, a well-edited paper, recently established at Mhow, contains an interesting account of the prize distribution at the Canadian Mission High School, Indore, which took place on the 10th of March. There was a large gathering of the friends and well-wishers of the school, and the chair was filled by Dewan Bahadur R. Raghuneth Rao, minister to the Maharaja Holkar. The Rev. J. Wilkie gave a short address in which he detailed the progress of the school. A most interesting programme was gone through, which, from the very favourable remarks elicited at its conclusion, must have made a most excellent impression on the audience. A number of original musical compositions were rendered. There were declamations, original dialogues in Urdu, Mahratti and English, a conversation in English, on newspaper politics, specimens of writing, map-drawing, etc. In some of our Canadian high schools enterprising pupils conduct literary magazines. These Indian schools are not behind their Canadian compeers in this respect. In the Canadian Mission High School at Indore there are two rival papers, the *Progress* and the *Advance*, between which, no doubt, the usual editorial courtesies are exchanged. The reading of those papers formed a part of the programme of the evening's entertainment. There were also gymnastic exercises, which must have been very creditable, and, judging from the subsequent remarks of more than one native gentleman, considered by them an important part of the school curriculum. One of these gentlemen was so pleased with this feature of the exhibition that he made it the subject of special eulogy, and announced his intention of awarding prizes at his own expense to the boys who had taken part in the gymnastic exercises.

In his concluding address, thanking the assemblage for the interest displayed in the progress of the school, Mr. Wilkie gave special thanks to the Indore Jubilee Committee for a contribution to the general

funds of the school. In one sense this was all the more acceptable, as it was entirely spontaneous on the part of the committee, composed, as it was, entirely of native gentlemen, none of whom were professed Christians. Several native gentlemen took an active part in the examination, and spoke appreciatively of the missionaries who had "disinterestedly left their homes and friends for ameliorating the condition of the people of India." Others of them afterward sent letters to the *Times* in which the work done at the school and its management were highly eulogized. One of these letters, written entirely of his own accord, by Sirdar Gurdatt Singh, attaché to the acting Governor-General, says:

Great credit is due to the Rev. Mr. J. Wilkie, the missionary in charge of the school, for the practical manner in which he imparts moral and secular instruction to his pupils, and the excellent management of the school. He is ably assisted by a competent staff of teachers and assistants. Praise in particular is due to Mr. Wilkie for the way he arranged his programme for the distribution of the prizes, as he thoughtfully provided amusement with work, which much pleased the audience and gave a chance to the boys to go through their exercises in certain branches of knowledge before an appreciative audience. I wish all school managers would follow this plan, and thereby actually show to the public the results of their teaching, and save the visitors the monotony of dry proceedings incident to mere prize distribution.

From all this it appears that the educational work of the Central India Mission is gaining for itself a place in the affection and esteem of the people of Indore. It must be peculiarly gratifying to the mission band there, as it is to their many friends throughout Canada, that instead of persistent opposition they have now the cordial support of those in official positions. This will afford them a new incentive, as it gives a more hopeful aspect to their self-denying labour in the work of the Master.

Books and Magazines.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: Russel Publishing Co.)—The May number is bright, beautiful and good.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—*St. Nicholas* for May is bright, varied, interesting and instructive, well and profusely illustrated.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—From week to week this standard eclectic supplies all that is noteworthy in the realm of current literature.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—This high-class weekly for young readers continues, with unfailing regularity, to supply them with literature of superior excellence, and with illustrations by the foremost artists.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—For frontier the May *Century* presents its readers with an excellently engraved portrait of Washington Irving. Recent Egyptian discoveries have suggested two most interesting papers, "Finding Pharaoh," by Edward L. Wilson, and "Pharaoh, the Oppressor, and His Daughter in the Light of their Monuments," by John A. Paine. Karl Blind contributes "Personal Recollections of Louis Blanc, with Notes Concerning Alsace-Lorraine." With the continuation of the Lincoln history, war papers, the serial novels and short stories, poetry and miscellaneous papers, the May number of this favourite magazine is decidedly attractive.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The *Atlantic* for May is an excellent number. "The Courting of Sister Wisby," a New England study drawn to the life, by Miss Jewett, a long and notable poem on an episode in French history, by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, and a paper by Mr. J. Elliott Cabot, "A Glimpse of Emerson's Boyhood," will be read with interest. Dr. Holmes' "Our Hundred Days in Europe," and also the two serials, "The Second Son," and "Paul Patoff," are continued as usual; and Mr. Hamerton adds another instalment to his "French and English" series. In "China and the United States" some popular fallacies about our diplomatic, business and missionary standing with the Chinese are discussed by A. A. Hayes; and a valuable study of Italian politics is contributed by Rev. William Chauncy Langdon, in the form of a sketch of Marco Minghetti. An able article on "The Decline of Duty," by George Frederick Parsons, discusses the indications of the prevailing want of conscientiousness in the worlds of labour, politics and theology. Poetry, reviews of Browning's and Tennyson's new volumes, etc., and the usual departments, conclude a number which is of unusual value.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

TRINIDAD.

The following is from Miss Copeland's report of San Fernando Indian school for 1886.

Another year has passed quickly away, and looking back we see many pleasing results, for which we feel very thankful.

Our school the average attendance has increased. We have had as many as 130 present at one session, and at an examination in October, 140; but the average for the year was 106.

Our plan at the beginning of the year was to run the school with monitors, under myself. This plan was adhered to for some time; but, from the number of children, the variety of subjects and diversity of language, it was found necessary to divide the school into three departments, each having a responsible head. This increased the monthly expenditure, but doubtless added to the efficiency of the work. These monitors are some of our brightest boys who have come in from the country schools. There are about a dozen of them, and they give promise of being useful as teachers and Christian workers, being able to read and write equally well in English and Hindi. Their parents generally are poor, and although all promise to contribute toward their keeping, yet I know that in some cases this promise held good only for a short time; two lads were entirely dependent on Mr. Grant for eight months, but through the kindness of a few ladies in Toronto, he was able to keep them in school. If some good friends would remember this department of the work we think it would be money well expended.

They have worship together in Hindustani in the school room, when Rev. Lal Behari gives them systematic instruction in the Word of God, each takes his turn in reading the Scriptures and leading in prayer. On Sundays, they go out two by two to preach the Gospel to their own country people in their own language; they are all desirous of doing good. Some go out to the estates, to hospitals, to the market place, or any place where they can get a little crowd to hear them, and they tell to them the wonderful words of life.

At one house which I visit very often, there is an old woman who, when I commenced to sing a Coolie Bhajan, would invariably begin to make a noise, talk loudly, and try to draw away the attention of the young people around me; but when I was in, one afternoon not long ago, she handed me a hymn book and asked me to sing, then she spread rice bags on the floor and told the others to sit down and listen, and sing with me; she sat down too, and did not say a word until I finished, then she said: "That good, sing another."

In our Sabbath school we follow the Westminster course of lessons. Mr. Grant sent for a hundred penny Testaments, so now at our Bible lessons in school, we read together the home readings in connection with the lessons. Our lessons this year in the Gospel according to St. John have been the most interesting, and a number of the children can tell what is contained in each chapter. They like to read their Bibles, and are very attentive to our lessons. We have learned a number of Hindustani hymns, and sing them at the Hindi service on Sabbath mornings. At first we used the harmonium with them, but the people said they would prefer singing them without it; they are more accustomed to sing to the beating of drums and cymbals. The singing at this service has improved very much since we have commenced these new tunes.

Every Monday morning, the children of the higher classes bring a short written essay on some subject they have had during the week, and they have improved considerably in their composition. We have also commenced the study of British history, and Mr. Grant has still his Latin class every morning. We have enlarged our schoolroom lately, and have in addition a nice classroom underneath the main building, so that we have now ample room for seating all the children, who had been very much crowded before.

It is becoming evident that while Mr. Beecher collected a large congregation in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, he did not constitute the people into a strong, compact and abiding church. It is reported that Mr. Shearman told the congregation recently that if they deferred the calling of a pastor to the autumn there would be no church left for a new pastor to greet. Disintegration is rapid in an assembly held by the attraction of a single name.