

*THE WEEK has more than entered upon its second year. The notes of *Bystander* are always worth reading, whether accepted or not. The writer not only wields a bold and ready pen, his wide culture and complete mastery of the English language give an educational value to the notes. Then the entire tone of the journal lifts it out from the atmosphere of bitterness and coarse personalities of very much of our secular press.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the *Christian Guardian*, began the year with a much improved appearance, being less of the newspaper, more of the journal. We congratulate our friend.

THE MIDWINTER (February) CENTURY contains an article by Dr. W. George Beers, of Montreal, on "Canada as a Winter Resort," profusely illustrated by Henry Sandham, with views of tobogganing, curling, racing on snow-shoes, etc. The Montreal carnival will give this paper an especial timeliness. Two full-page illustrations of Mr. Howells's article on "A Florentine Mosaic," are remarkable reproductions by the wood-engraver of etchings. Mr. Pennell, the artist, was sent to Italy by the publishers of *The Century* to illustrate Mr. Howells's series of Italian cities, of which this is the first paper.

WE have received from Messrs. W. Drysdale and Company, Montreal "The Pastor's Diary and Clerical Record for 1885." For an orderly keeping of engagements, recording sermons preached, visits made, things to be remembered, etc., this little pocket volume seems just about perfect. Certainly any pastor who uses it faithfully will find time economized to the very utmost. The price is fifty cents.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE for 1885 is before us. This annual comes bright and cheery as ever with its profusely illustrated catalogue of seeds and coloured frontispiece. Its artistic cover and clear print make it more than a mere index. It has a seemingly appearance which secures it from being lightly thrown aside. The seeds of James Vick, Rochester, have long and deservedly stood in the very front of the market. We have tried them several years, and found them ever choice.

GEMS FOR LITTLE SINGERS. By E. U. Emerson and G. Swayne. (Ditson & Co. : Boston and New York.) A pleasing collection of nursery airs, grave and gay, prettily illustrated, clearly printed. Any one who can enter into the spirit of childhood will appreciate these gems, for gems they are.

DIDLEY DUMPS; OR, JOHN ELLARD, THE NEWSBOY. By F. Ratchford Starr, M.A. Fifth edition, revised and enlarged. 12mo, cloth, illustrated, pp. 166. Price, 75 cents.—Newsboys constitute a peculiar species of the human family. City dwellers are often amused at their pranks or amazed at their audacity,

and never feel sure that they may not be startled by some new development. Christian men have studied these waifs with the view to make them better, and this book is the record of such experiences. The author was among the pioneers in extending a helpful hand to the newsboys. He was their friend, and they knew it. Didley Dumps, the hero of this narrative, was a deformed newsboy in Philadelphia. His character, adventures, pranks, bright sayings and early end are sympathetically portrayed. With him in the Newsboys' Home were others of his kind. Several letters are inserted, which are at once amusing and pathetic, as showing with what eyes such lads look at life. The book is valuable as a record of good work in a hard field. Every purchaser of the volume may feel that, while gratifying himself he is also contributing towards the help of the lads who have such a hard struggle, since the author generously donates all the royalty derived from the sale of the book to the "Newsboys' Aid Society" of Philadelphia. The American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia, Pa.; Bible House, New York.

THE PULPIT OF TO-DAY is the first number of the consolidated *English Pulpit of To-Day and Plymouth Pulpit*, forming a very strong and attractive combination. The January number contains sermons by Revs. Canon Farrar, Arthur Mursell, Principal Stubbs, Joseph Parker, and two by Henry Ward Beecher; Sermonic outlines by Principal Fairburn, Wm. F. Faber, Arthur Mursell, and others, besides the usual amount of miscellaneous matter. The low price of the magazine has helped it into public favour and gained for it the largest circulation of any homiletic magazine in America. One dollar a year; specimen copies, 10 cents. A. E. Rose, publisher, Westfield, N. Y.

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The second quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Canada Congregational Missionary Society was held in Kingston on December 29th and 30th, 1884, at which meeting the following facts relating to the work of the past six months were presented, and are by direction of the Committee given to the churches.

1. A union between this Society and that of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has been consummated, which went into effect on the first of July, so that now all the Provinces of the Dominion are united in one Congregational Missionary Society.

2. The number of churches and preaching stations now under the care of the Society and its missionaries is sixty-seven, and of this number thirty-five are in Ontario, twelve in Quebec, and twenty in the Maritime Provinces. They include the Indian Church at