

and a supremely confident mode of personal address' feed souls hungering and thirsting for the word of life? In a word, can the style of religious address which is not doctrinal train a hardy race of stalwart and intelligent Christians, whose faith and principles can stand the shock of conflict with the world, the devil and the flesh?

In all periods of spiritual life, strength and activity doctrinal preaching has been in the ascendant. The preaching of Jonathan Edwards, the sermons of Robert Murray McChesney, of W. C. Burns, and even the addresses of D. L. Moody, were and are such as to present spiritual truth in clear doctrinal form, so that understanding, heart and soul may be moved. Luther's preaching was distinctly doctrinal, so was Calvin's, so was that of John Knox. It is only by the power of truth that men's minds are powerfully and permanently influenced. To be effective, preaching must be instructive, and to this end nothing is more conducive than a clear grasp of the doctrines revealed in Scripture. When clearly apprehended and faithfully presented, they neither fail to interest nor instruct the hearers.

The range of Christian doctrine is wide enough to prevent the wearisome repetition of a few dogmas in almost the same set form of words with which the hearer is so familiar that he becomes listless and indifferent. There is room for great variety of form in the presentation of scriptural truth. Fresh and apt illustration is by no means difficult to secure. Just as the facts of physical science can be presented to an uninitiated audience divested of technicality in the common forms of every-day speech, so the great saving truths of the Gospel may be lovingly and powerfully proclaimed in the vernacular of the people, and not in the precise and rigid formulæ of the theological professor. Doctrine and dulness are not like the Siamese twins. They have no natural affinity. Of all kinds of preaching the doctrinal can be made the most interesting and powerful, but to be effective it must not only come from the intellect clear and cold, but warm and life-giving from the believing heart that beats sympathetically with the hearts and lives of those to whom it is addressed.

## Books and Magazines.

**LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.** (Boston: Littell & Co.)—As a weekly exponent of the best literature of the time, the *Living Age* occupies the first place.

**OUR LITTLE FOLKS AND THE NURSERY.** (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This exquisite juvenile monthly is a marvel as to the suitableness and variety of its contents, and the beauty of its illustrations.

**ST. NICHOLAS.** (New York: The Century Co.)—This most excellent monthly, from the general excellence and variety of its contents, the number and artistic form of its engravings, is a favourite wherever it comes.

**THE Standard Life Assurance Company**, of which Mr. W. M. Ramsay is Manager, and Mr. Thomas Kerr, Inspector, has issued their neat and convenient little *Almanac and Diary* for 1888, also a most serviceable blotter.

**HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE.** (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—Every week this handsome magazine is eagerly looked for by its immense circle of admiring readers. Its contents, literary and pictorial, are admirably fitted to instruct and refine the minds of those into whose hands it comes.

**THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE.** (New York: The American Magazine Co.)—This new monthly is in point of attractiveness and general excellence coming steadily to the front. An article on "Cape Breton Island" is interestingly written and copiously illustrated. Another finely-illustrated paper is on "Some Boston Artists and their Studios." "Boy Life on the Prairie" begun in this number, promises to be an attractive series. "Olivia Delaplaine" is continued. Short tales and good poems and the usual departments furnish excellent and varied reading.

**THE CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE.** (Toronto: William Briggs.)—This magazine makes a good beginning with the January number of its twenty-seventh volume. There are three copiously-illustrated papers, one by Lilian Dexter on "Scott's Marmion," another on "Recent Experiences in

China," by C. B. Adams, and the first of a series on "Picturesque Ireland." Among other interesting papers may be mentioned "The Trials and Triumphs of Prohibition," and the "Story of Metlakatla." It is also enlivened with serial, story and poetry.

**HARPER'S MAGAZINE.** (New York: Harper & Brother.)—*Harper's* begins the year with a splendid number. There is still an aroma of the holiday season about it. The frontispiece is taken from Lafarge's painting in the Church of the Incarnation, New York. The Rev. Dr. Henry Van Dyke has a paper on "The Adoration of the Magi." In a paper on "The Italian Chamber of Deputies," there are no fewer than thirty portraits of these southern celebrities. Other finely illustrated papers are on "Modern French Sculpture," "Virginia of Virginia," "The City of Savannah," "The Share of America in Westminster Abbey," by Archdeacon Farrar. Serials, tales and poems, and the departments complete a delightful number.

**SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE.** (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—This superb monthly enters on its second volume under the most promising auspices. Its contents, while of a high character throughout, afford sufficient variety to meet the tastes of different classes of readers. Among the papers with copious and fine illustrations may be mentioned "The Man-at-Arms," "The Great Pyramid," with a large number of engravings from photographs, giving most realistic views of the wonders of the Nile, and "Japanese Art, Artists, and Artisans." In addition to serials, short stories and poems, there is "A Chapter on Dreams," by Robert Louis Stevenson, who has undertaken to supply a series of papers to *Scribner's*. The number as a whole is of great excellence.

**THE CENTURY.** (New York: The Century Co.)—There is great variety in the table of contents of the January number of the *Century*. Its subjects embrace an authoritative account of the formation of Lincoln's Cabinet in the history by the President's private secretaries, with many unpublished letters; Mr. Kennan's startling record of personal investigations of "Russian Provincial Prisons"; Professor Atwater's valuable and practical paper on the "Economic Economy of Food"; an illustrated article on "The Catacombs of Rome," by the Rev. Dr. Philip Schaff; a biographical sketch of John Gilbert, with portraits; in art and literature a critique and personal sketch of John Ruskin by Mr. Stillman, with an excellent portrait for the frontispiece of the number; in sport "An Elk-Hunt on the Plains," by Schwatka, with drawings; in travel, "The Upper Missouri and the Great Falls," by E. V. Smalley (illustrated); in fiction, contributions by Cable, Eggleston, Stockton and Edwards; four pages of war aftermath; letters on Industrial Education in the Public Schools; a play by Mark Twain entitled "Meisterchast"; shorter articles on "The American Book," a plea for international copyright, on "A Southern Man Ahead of his Time," etc.; and a large variety of excellent poems.

**THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.** (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—None of the magazines begin the new year with more brilliant prospects than the *Atlantic Monthly*, of which the number for January, 1888, has just been issued. The excellent steel engraving of Miss Murfree ("Charles Egbert Craddock"), which forms the frontispiece, will gratify the numerous admirers of this famous writer. The number opens with the first chapter of "Yone Santo: A Child of Japan," the new serial story by Edward H. House. "The Secret," a poem by Mr. Lowell, will attract special attention. Unpublished letters of Benjamin Franklin to his brother printer, Strahan, of England, are full of value and significance, throwing a new light upon certain of the best aspects of Franklin's character, as well as upon provincial politics and society. A spirited beginning of "The Despot of Broomsedge Cove," the new story by Charles Egbert Craddock, is made in this number, which also has three more chapters of "The Second Son," the absorbing story by Mrs. Oliphant and Mr. Aldrich. In lighter vein, the descriptive articles on Southern California, by Charles Dudley Warner, and on Constantinople, by Theodore Child, are delightful reading. Notable articles by C. M. Hewins, Edward J. Lowell, a postscript to his charming "Hundred Days in Europe," by Dr. Holmes, and other attractive features are included in the January number.

## THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

### PROGRESS IN INDIA.

The Christian Church in India, according to careful statistics, is advancing with leaps and bounds. Between 1851 and 1861 the native Christians of India increased at the rate of fifty-three per cent., during the following years at sixty-one per cent., and during the last ten years at the rate of eighty-six per cent. In India alone (exclusive of Burmah and Ceylon) there were in 1881, when the last census was taken, 417,000 native Protestant Christians. The increase has been steady, with an augmenting ratio. It has had no fluctuations of reverses, and retrogressions. The truth is, Christianity is now a mighty power in India, and its spiritual force is beginning to play a prodigious part in influencing the minds and habits of the people. The most potent enlightening energy at work throughout the length and breadth of India at this moment is the Gospel of Christ. Errors, superstitions, idolatries are falling before it. Public opinion among the most advanced Hindus is pronouncing in its favour. It is gradually overcoming prejudice, and the light of its divine purity and love is permeating all classes of native society. We are responsible for this great change. We have disturbed these peoples in their old faiths, and we must show them what we can build as well as demolish. If we would be true to God, to them and to ourselves we must see to it that as Hinduism falls another light shall arise; that as those ancient names fall into disrepute another name shall be named; that when the gods of the Hindu pantheon fall prostrate, He shall be lifted up who shall draw all men to Him. This is a critical and formative time for India, and unless the Churches of Britain use the present opportunities they will lose their greatest chance. With a wider work to do, and with ampler opportunities to do it, we need to be baptized afresh into the spirit of the apostolic times. The money must be supplied or the work must languish. A very humble additional impost upon individual wealth will suffice to overtake it, and there cannot be any employment of wealth more legitimate, more noble. Here, by God's blessing upon consecrated wealth, gold may be transmuted into something that is not corruptible; for it may be laid out so as to increase the divine satisfaction of the Saviour when He sees of the travail of His soul. Then—when of its fulness and its willingness—"the earth yields her increase," God shall bless us, and "all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."—*Rev. Henry Rice, Madras.*

### A BRILLIANT MISSIONARY OFFER.

Mr. Arthington, of Leeds, has written an identical letter to the three great missionary societies, the London, the Baptist and the Free Church of Scotland, offering the sum of \$75,000 to enable them jointly to enter upon a mission to the tribes of the northern part of South America. The money would be at the disposal of a council consisting of representatives of the three societies, \$10,000 of it to be applied to the provision of a steamer to ply on the Amazon and its affluents, and the interest of the remaining \$65,000 to the working expenses of the mission. This, at four per cent., would amount to but \$2,600 a year, a small sum for so vast an enterprise, and it would need to be largely supplemented before any adequate effort could be made. The secretaries of the three societies, the Rev. Wardlaw Thompson, Mr. Baynes and Dr. George Smith, will confer together upon the matter. The South American Missionary Society is working in Patagonia, and two American societies have missions in the region indicated by Mr. Arthington. These perhaps might more appropriately take up the suggestion. But it is a splendid one. The South American continent has been a comparatively neglected region from the missionary point of view, and it will be well if the present offer marks a forward movement.

THE Berlin South African Mission enjoyed a prosperous growth in 1886. It now includes, in six synods, forty-seven stations, with 16,539 baptized converts, of whom 7,705 are communicants, and 3,505 children in the schools. The free offerings amounted to 20,000 marks, and, including what went for home expenses, school fees, etc., 103,000 marks.