

Books and Magazines.

had reproach to the country may be speedily and satisfactorily wiped out. The good name and the future progress of the country are involved in the decision to which Parliament may come.

So far as public opinion can be gauged at present, no one has come out openly in defence of the plundering that has been permitted so long. If the public conscience has been shocked by recent disclosures there has been comparatively little emotion displayed. There have, it is true, been numerous clear and unequivocal condemnations of wrong-doing in the press and in the pulpit and in private circles, but as yet there has been no direct evidence that the temper of the Canadian people is such that they mean to put an end to the system that leaves the public treasury at the mercy of audacious schemers. An unpromising feature of the enquiries has been the effort to shield those who are high in place, a passionate reluctance to admit evidence that reflects upon them, and at the same time a firm determination to visit with condign punishment the minor offenders whose wrong-doing has been uncarthed. A more hopeful state of things would be seen in a thorough determination to deal passionlessly with every one, whatever his position, who is tainted with crookedness in the management of the nation's affairs. Canada is not so bankrupt in character that she is reduced to the necessity of putting men with shady reputations in the highest offices she has to bestow. What an example this would be to the young, the ardent and aspiring, were they to understand that a high sense of personal honour and unimpeachable integrity were disqualifications rather than otherwise for serving their country in the councils of the nation.

Many of our ministers have come out boldly and fearlessly in denunciation of the evils under which the country has cause to groan. They differ only in matters of individual opinion; in the main they agree. All honour to those who have spoken out. They have done so in a spirit of manly independence. It has to be remembered that on subjects that have a political colouring it is not always easy or pleasant for the occupant of a pulpit to speak his mind freely on questions concerning which his people may differ widely in opinion. Those who for prudential reasons conclude to remain silent should not be judged too harshly. They may be left to decide for themselves what is the best course to pursue. The pulpit, if it is to retain its just power and influence, cannot become the vehicle for the dissemination of party political opinions. In questions of national importance having a distinctly moral bearing it is different. In discussing these the ministry is strictly within its line of duty, and if it is becoming and proper to pray that those in authority may be guided aright in the discharge of their responsible duties, it is surely as much within the sphere of a minister's duty to speak a word of warning to his people when the principles of integrity are systematically violated with the connivance if not the participation of those entrusted with the conduct of public affairs and who are supposed to be the guardians of the nation's honour.

Many noble words have been spoken by ministers of our own and other Churches in condemnation of the evil things that have been done and permitted at the nation's capital. Some weeks ago Dr. Armstrong spoke manfully out in exposing the evils that all deplore. In this week's issue the concluding portion of a discourse by Rev. George Bruce, of St. John, N.B., appears, and it is well worth an attentive perusal. It is a model of what a sermon on public questions should be. There is no trace of partisanship in it from beginning to end. One point he makes clear and in this many others who have spoken agree with him. It is that as the Government is in the hands of the people the representation in Parliament will be what the people themselves make it. So long as people permit themselves to be swayed by sordid appeals and actual bribery we cannot have a Parliament free from venality. We may look with keen interest on the doings at Ottawa, but it rests with the Canadian people themselves whether they shall have clean and reputable men to make and administer their laws. Canadians cannot all be Liberals, neither can they all be Conservatives, but they can send to Parliament the best men in the ranks of either to represent them.

MISSIONARY TRIALS IN CHINA.

ATTACKS on mission stations in China have not yet been suppressed. Specious promises by the authorities have been made but it is represented that somehow there seems no evident intention of implementing them. This is taken to mean that governors and other officials are more or less

in sympathy with the rioters and imbued with the same hatred of foreigners that many of the populace display. So numerous and menacing are the native opponents of missions that in many places the gravest fears are apprehended. Imperial proclamations, warning the people against attacking foreigners and declaring that they shall be held responsible for the damages they commit, have not as yet produced a restraining effect though missionaries in China believe that when the people come to understand that the Government is in earnest, they will not be so ready to commit acts of barbarity and violence.

The most recent attack has been made on the mission stations at Ichang. It is too far up the Yangtze River for war vessels of any size to approach, but late advices intimate that a steamer of light draught has been chartered and a company of British sailors have gone up the river to take part in protecting the life and property of the foreigners menaced by the rioters. There is every indication that the various European powers, however conflicting their home policies may be, will act in concert in their efforts to secure freedom from attack for their citizens resident in China. Some are of opinion that a sufficiently strong display of armed force will deter the Chinese from inflicting farther injuries on the defenceless missions throughout the Empire. It is at best a doubtful experiment. It may comport with Mohammedanism to advance its interests by the power of the sword, but this is not a weapon by which the conquests of Christianity can be won. European soldiers and sailors are engaged only to restore and preserve civil order, but Chinese peasants are not likely to be able to draw fine distinctions, especially when cunning and determined opponents of Christianity are ready to pervert facts and enflame the minds of people with hatred of the missionaries in whose behalf the forces of foreign powers have appeared.

It has also to be borne in mind why this hatred of Christian missionaries which has apparently broken out so suddenly has been long and reverberatingly fostered. It is more than surmised that under this hatred of Christian teaching a deep-seated revolutionary movement is being carried on. Last week it was stated in cable despatches that there had been several seizures of arms, ammunition and even dynamite that secret societies had been surreptitiously importing, a fact in some degree confirming the impression that revolutionary designs are entertained. The appearance of small bodies of European soldiers and sailors may easily be seized upon as a pretext for beginning a civil war that might grow to serious proportions. Though there is room for conjecture, it may be that none of these serious contingencies may happen. It is possible that the energetic measures taken by the representatives in China of foreign powers will have the only effect intended, the deterring of the lawless disturbers of the peace, and teaching them the lesson that they cannot molest missionaries and other foreign residents with impunity.

The hostility of the Chinese to Christianity has been eagerly and persistently spread throughout the Empire. Native scholars have circulated pamphlets ascribing the most horrible atrocities to those who teach and have embraced it. As in the early days of Christianity in the Roman Empire, the meetings of Christian converts are described as the occasions of the wildest orgies, and the popular mind has been filled with alarm because of the supposed horrors that are said to be practised. Prejudice, like superstition, dies hard. After the present excited state of feeling has subsided, it will take a long time to disabuse the minds of many of the people that missionaries and their work have been grossly misrepresented. The Imperial Government is not hostile to Christianity. A number of the provincial governors have no sympathy whatever with the popular hatred and fear of it. They are doing what they can to disabuse the minds of the populace and bring them to a more tolerant mood. Wrong impressions, however, will continue to linger, and the missionaries will have to exercise patience and strive against discouragement. On this great and in many respects hopeful and encouraging field, as in others, patience must have its perfect work, for in due time they shall reap if they faint not. Neither should the friends of missions in this or other lands be discouraged because for the present the sky is overcast. These events try the faith, the courage and constancy of missionaries abroad and Christians at home. There is no reason for faltering or misgiving. Let the Christian Churches be unstinted in their sympathy and support; let them continue instant in prayer and these trying providences will yet turn out for the furthering of the Gospel.

JOHN FOSTER KIRK'S "Supplement to Allibone's Dictionary of Authors" in two volumes is to be published immediately by the Lippincotts.

MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER'S personal memoirs of her husband, under the title of "Mr. Beecher as I Knew Him," will begin in the October issue of the *Ladies' Home Journal*.

THE "Century Dictionary" has at last been completed. The final pages of the sixth volume are now on the press. The work contains 500 more pages and 2,000 more illustrations than were originally projected.

THE *Hebrew-Christian* for September contains a fine portrait of the late Rev. Adolph Saphir, D.D., of London. The paper mentioned is published by the Rev. Jacob Freshman, 17 St. Mark's Place, New York, to further the interests of his Hebrew-Christian work.

MRS. ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS-WARD has recently completed a biography of her late father, Professor Austin Phelps, which will be published at an early date by the Scribners. An interesting feature of the book is the autobiographical matter relating to Professor Phelps' youth and early manhood.

A NEW and valuable addition to the literature of Christian evidences will be found in "The Fourth Gospel," to be issued immediately by the Scribners. Three eminent writers, the late Professor Abbot, Dr. Andrew P. Peabody and Bishop Lightfoot, have united in the book to present the evidences in support of the Johannean authorship of the Fourth Gospel.

WE have received a specimen of the beautiful, clear and accurate maps that are to compose W. and A. K. Johnston's (Edinburgh and London) *Royal Atlas*, to be published in monthly parts beginning in October. From the eminence of the house, the facilities they possess and the skill with which the work is prepared, it will be one of the best atlases ever published.

RUDYARD KIPLING'S new novel, written in collaboration with Wolcott Balestier for the *Century*, is entitled "The Naulanka, a Tale of West and East." It is a story of America and India. The principal characters live in a "booming" Colorado town, where the story opens, but the scene quickly shifts to the court of an Indian Maharajah, whither the hero and the heroine journey to meet with most varied experiences. The story will begin in the November *Century*.

HOW TO READ THE ENGLISH BIBLE. By Rev. John Burton, B.D. (Toronto.)—The substance of this little publication was delivered as a lecture at the Canadian Chataqua this season. It also appeared as a contribution in our pages, but through a *lapsus*, without the name of the writer, a circumstance which, though hardly fair to him, would enable the reader to form an unbiased estimate of the value of the article. The intelligent reader no doubt came to the conclusion that it was fresh, clear, candid and helpful, and, from its quiet, scholarly tone, worthy of its esteemed author.

THE *Century Magazine* will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by publishing a life of Columbus, written especially for that magazine by Emilio Castelar, the famous Spanish orator, statesman and author. The work is written in Spanish, and will be carefully translated. Senor Castelar, whose interest in and admiration for America are well known, has made a careful study of the new historical material bearing upon the subject, and it is said that his papers will be very richly illustrated. Other articles dealing with the discovery of America are in course of preparation for the same magazine.

BABYHOOD. (New York: Babyhood Publishing Co.)—The September number of *Babyhood* contains an important article on "Diphtheria," by one of the most eminent authorities on the subject, Professor J. Lewis Smith, of Bellevue Hospital Medical College. "Eczema in Childhood" is another medical article which will commend itself to young mothers. Under "Nursery Helps and Novelties" will be found useful suggestions for the sick room, descriptions of a medicine chest, of baby-guards, etc. The mothers record their experiences in the "Parliament," "Baby's Wardrobe" and in the other departments of that monthly nursery guide.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—The September number completes the eighth volume of this decidedly good magazine. The title page and carefully-arranged index for the volume appears in this month's issue. The frontispiece, "Studios Moments," is a strong picture. A second paper, admirably illustrated, on "The Russo-Jewish Emigrant," by Rev. S. Singer, will be read with interest. Other handsomely illustrated papers are, "The Queen's Private Gardens at Osborne;" "Emanuel Hospital, Westminster;" "Turkish Girlhood," and "Cheswick, Past and Present." Lewis Morris contributes "A Song of the Year." Alan Adair furnishes a short story, "True Jealousies," and F. Marion Crawford's "Witch of Prague" is completed.

AN important arrangement has been made with Mr. Pinches, of the British Museum, to write for the *Expository Times* a series of articles dealing with the old Testament and the Cuneiform Inscription. He will go over the whole field of discovery in this department, incorporating and correcting Schrader's latest edition, and adding the new material which has been made available since it was published. In regard to these articles Professor Sayce writes to the editor: "I am glad to hear that Mr. Pinches has consented to write this series of articles. You could not have found any one more fit for such a work. He is one of our best Assyriologists, and his position at the British Museum gives him access to all the newest sources of Assyriological information." Professor Sayce himself will write on "The Higher Criticism" and the "Monuments," the first article appearing in the October number. The same number will contain an article by Professor Caspar Rene Gregory, of Leipzig, on the "Teaching of Theology" in that University. Arrangements have also been made for articles upon English literature in its religious and ethical aspects. Professor Henry Jones, of University College, North Wales, will write on Browning, and Miss Woods, of Clifton College, on Milton. With the issue for October commencing Vol. III., the *Expository Times* will be enlarged to double its present size.