

A Children's Portion.

One of the most pleasing features of our Presbyterian services is the family pew. At the head of it sits the father, while the mother disposes herself impartially where her motherly touch may quiet a restless or fractious one. Each of the children has an appointed place, as they have at the family table; each has a Bible and psalter, each has some small offering for the Lord. In the church where we worship Sabbath after Sabbath, two sunny-haired children sit with their father and mother in the family pew. Three seats behind them two stalwart sons and a daughter who is a woman grown, sit with the father and mother in the family pew. This is as it should be.

To secure this desirable condition of things, the minister will be careful to provide a portion specially for the little ones. It may be just a hymn familiar to the children, or the reading of some simple portion of the Scriptures in which the children join, or a five minute address before the ordinary sermon, or a special service for the children at a more or less lengthened interval. The minister will consider his own limitations, and act accordingly. Few have the ability, and fewer still the patience and diligence, to prepare a special service for the children, and ready-made services are always stilted. But, by persistent practice, and unceasing diligence most ministers may learn to prepare and to deliver a five-minute address that shall reach the hearts of the child-members of his congregation, for whose welfare, as the overseer of Christ's flock there, he is held responsible.

Many ministers look upon this part of the service as an act of grace on their part, and with a tinge of the spirit of the man who went up into the Temple to pray, and who went down not justified, they mention the fact to their brother ministers that they have such services. Is it any wonder that there are comparatively few little ones in the family pew when such is the opinion that prevails among the preachers. The Sabbath school is not the children's service. It cannot take the place of the ordinary service any more than it can take the place of the home training of the child. That it is allowed to take the place of either is due to the neglect of a plain duty, on the part of the parent on the one hand, and on the part of the ministers on the other. When he is placed over the congregation he is specially charged to care for the lambs of the flock.

The Rev. Dr. John Brown, of Bedford, has been chosen to deliver the Yale lectures on preaching next year, in succession to Dr. G. Adam Smith.

There are in the United States three copies of the Gutenberg Bible, which ranks as the most valuable of printed books. One of these cost \$14,800. A copy on vellum has brought \$20,000.

A Boys' Brigade Story.*

This is a story about boys, and for boys; its peculiar feature is that it works into an interesting narrative, the toils and troubles, the defeats and victories of "Brigade Boys." The late Professor Drummond was enthusiastic over the "new process" of turning rough boys into good men, but this movement like all others must bear the brunt of criticism, and in this story we find that the "new-fangled process" is brought into disrepute through the inconsistency of the youthful soldiers; but those who believed that "they were a' right at heart" were in the end justified. Young people who read this book will learn much about the life of Scottish boys, and learn at the same time, some lessons of courage and faithfulness.

May Magazines.

The Nineteenth Century for May opens with an article by Mr. Sidney Low, on the Peace Conference, charging that the Russian peace proposal is dictated by pure hypocrisy, and as a blind to enable her to complete her railroads; we should be sorry to accept this theory, and so to doubt the motives of the Czar, which are, we would fain believe, purely humanitarian. The next article, by Dr. Rentor, deals with the menace to Finnish freedom in the Imperial proposal for a new military law, and the Czar's Manifesto to the Finnish people; and concludes with an expression of hope that when the true facts are brought to the personal knowledge of the Czar, which, the writer suggests are kept from him by interested parties, he will listen to the opinion expressed by the Diet, and re-establish Finland's constitutional rights. An interesting article, written by Father Ryan, entitled "The Ethics of War," follows next, the object of which is to justify war when waged on reasonable grounds. Then follows a very terse article by Professor Goldwin Smith, answering Mr. Keibel's criticism on the Professor's former letter to the Times on the evils of the party system of government. A paper by Mr. Edmund Robertson, Q.C., M.P., on "The Church of England as by Law Established," is a temperate argument in favor of the legal right of the British Parliament to make laws for the Church of England. The Hon. W. Gibson contributes a short paper calling attention to the increased vigilance with which the Roman congregations are watching Catholics who wish to modernize apologetical arguments, drawing from it the conclusion "that serious scientific investigation in any of the higher branches is impossible, in any Catholic faculty, in cases where the subject matter is likely to be of interest to the ecclesiastical

authorities." There is also an interesting article by the Rev. A. C. Yorke, "The Jackeroo" (an Australian term denoting the young man without experience), warning parents against the danger of sending out their sons to face the trials of colonial life.

The Fortnightly opens with an article by Mr. J. G. Leigh, on the Samoan question, impeaching the Berlin Act, and the interpretation of it by the Chief Justice of Samoa. Mr. Nisbet Bain contributes an article on Finland, and Mr. Arthur Symonds one on Balzac, and Milesius writes on "Irish County Council Elections," maintaining that so far from the newly-elected Councils becoming a substitute for Home Rule, as Mr. Gerald Balfour, the Irish Chief Secretary, anticipated, when bringing in the Irish Local Government Bill into the House of Commons, Lord Salisbury will be bound to make the Irish people the concession of Home Rule, to relieve the loyal minority from ostracism from public life in Ireland. It is for the newly-elected Councils, first of all, to show their ability for local government under the powers now vested in them; their proceedings will be watched with much anxiety and no little interest. The most interesting article in the Magazine is one by Harold Hodge, entitled "The Teacher Problem." We quote one short paragraph: "The type which now adopts the profession of elementary school teachers is hardly capable of many of the qualities which, apart from the technique of teaching, are necessary to produce the schoolmaster or school mistress, as distinguished from the instructor. If you send a child to an instructor in cycling you want him merely to show the child how to cycle; you do not want the instructor to acquire any influence over him. But it is quite otherwise at school, where the child is to be educated. The existing elementary teacher is a competent instructor within very narrow limits; he is usually not much more. But it is just in the elementary schools that something more than an instructor is wanted." The writer of the article urges that what is wanted is educated ladies and gentlemen as teachers.

The quarterly meeting of the Protestant section of the Council of Public Instruction was held on the 19th inst. in the Parliament buildings, Quebec, and was well attended. Principal Peterson, of McGill; Dr. Robinson, of McGill Normal School; Professor Rexford, of High School; Prof. Neilan, of McGill Normal School; and Dr. Heneker were among those present. In consequence of the resignation of Rev. Dr. Norman, Dr. James Dunbar, Quebec, was appointed his successor, and Rev. A. T. Love, B.A., minister of St. Andrew's Church, was substituted on the central board of examiners. In addition to Dr. Harper, inspector of superior schools, the council will appoint nine other examiners for this examination.

* "Private Fyffe" by Hubert R. Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh and London.