

that heated discussion in the sense of unseemly wrangling there was none. Statements to the effect that acrimonious feeling was apparent at times is an exaggeration resting on no basis of fact. As Dr. Caven so fitly said in his model response at the valedictory meeting, none would return to their homes with wounded feelings, no arrow-point would fester in any breast.

Another of the subjects ably discussed was the training of the ministry. Here again there was unanimity. There was no disposition on the part of any delegate present to shorten the course of study required of candidates for the sacred office. In this connection able papers by Dr. Oliver, of Glasgow, Principal Hutton, of Paisley, and Dr. Moore, of Hampden Sydney, Virginia, were read. The general feeling in the Council seemed to be that while the pulpit should be constantly employed in the proclamation of the good news of God for man's redemption and prompting to holiness of life, it was no less essential that it should attend to the application of Christianity to the needs and circumstances of modern society. The message that God sent by His prophets to Israel and concerning then existent nations were precisely the truths specially needed in those days. Christianity being designed for universal application has its special message to the conditions of each successive generation.

A question in which very general interest inside and outside the Council, was that relating to the industrial life of the present complex conditions of modern development. In the Council, as well as out of it, there were contrary opinions. The papers dealing with the subject evinced great ability, careful research and vigour of thought. There was one on land allotment by Mr. Alexander Watt, of Glasgow, and the other on the wage question by Principal Grant. Neither was revolutionary, but both writers had looked too nearly and with sympathetic eyes on the struggle ever growing in intensity, not to say fierceness, in the industrial world and both reached the conclusion that amelioration on the basis of equity and justice was needed. The solution of the industrial problem is more likely to be satisfactorily accomplished by the intervention and adoption of Christian principles than by strikes and lock-outs, by bayonets and bombs.

The opening sermon by Principal Caven formed the fitting key-note to all that followed. The high level on which the meetings began was maintained till the final benediction was pronounced.

Not the least interesting feature of these meetings was the opportunity afforded of seeing the men whose names have been long familiar to Presbyterians of this generation. Several of them are favourably known by their writings. The venerable form of Dr. W. Garden Blaikie would attract kindly attention anywhere. Ireland sent a brilliant contingent, England and Scotland were well represented. Drs. Monro Gibson and David McEwan, of Clapham, were worthy spokesmen for the Churches of the metropolis, while Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and the Provinces sent men who would be esteemed in any part of the world. The American Churches sent a splendid body of delegates, and far-off Australia had three of her Presbyterian stalwarts on the floor of the Council. The remarkable readiness, versatility and clear-thinking of Professor Rentoul was a revelation to many. Another man of eminence and future promise whom the Council discovered was Professor Bavinck, of Kampen, Holland. To some people on this side of the Atlantic he was known as an able contributor to leading theological quarterlies, but many of them will now take a kindlier interest in the strong thinker who favoured the Council with a paper on a kindred subject with that by Professor Lindsay, who, along with Dr. Bavinck, constituted binary stars of the first magnitude among the brilliant luminaries present at the Fifth Council. This journal joins cordially in the congratulations interchanged at the valedictory meeting and feels assured that from the influence wielded by the Council, great and permanent results to the cause of Christianity will follow.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

THIS excellent institution, which holds a most important place among the active Christian agencies of our time, though in a measure overshadowed by the meetings of the Presbyterian Council, was nevertheless fortunate in holding its twenty-seventh anniversary at the time it did. It was thus able to secure Dr. John G. Paton, the veteran of the New Hebrides Mission, as the

preacher of the annual sermon, which was listened to with manifest interest by a large congregation as he detailed in glowing yet simple language the story of the planting of Christianity in that difficult but now promising field, watered as it has been with martyr blood. At the annual meeting held next evening Dr. John Hall spoke with his accustomed clearness, force and fervour.

What this institution is doing to advance the special work for which it was originated will best be seen by a few brief extracts from the excellent and succinct report just issued:—

The meeting for young men held every Saturday evening has been the means of blessing to many. Fifty-one meetings were held, with an average attendance of seventy-three. These meetings have been a training school for many of our young men, giving them confidence, and teaching them how to take part intelligently in Christian work. The Gospel and song service held on Sunday evening has had an average attendance of ninety-six.

Earnest evangelistic addresses have been delivered by prominent city clergymen and laymen, and eternity alone will unfold the results of the Word so faithfully preached.

The series of five Bible classes conducted by the Association present one of the most encouraging and hopeful features connected with our work. The class conducted by the General Secretary has met regularly every Sunday afternoon during the year, with an average attendance of thirty-two. This is a conversational class, and the young men take great interest in the study of God's Word, and are always ready to take part in the lesson. That the class is doing valuable work is made evident by the fact that during the year at least twenty of the members have left for the purpose of taking up Sabbath school work, and of entering other spheres of Christian usefulness.

Personal dealing is adopted wherever opportunities present. The report states that one hundred and fifty have received benefit from this method of work, "and," it is added, "many others had their doubts removed, and were led out into clearer light and deeper Christian experience." The week of prayer was deemed a fitting season to bring the claims of the Gospel on young men specially before the congregations. In no fewer than sixty of the city churches sermons were preached at the Association's request. The work among the Chinese in the city has during the year been very encouraging and the Sunday school conducted for their benefit has received considerable accessions. In efforts to extend the blessings of the Gospel among different classes the report states that during the time the volunteers were camped at Niagara—

Our Gospel and reading tent, as usual, was erected on the camp grounds at Niagara, where the volunteers met. At least 700 letters were written by the men at the correspondence table in the tent. The meetings were largely attended, as many as 300 of the men being present at some of the services. One thousand copies of Moody's sermon, "What Think Ye of Christ?" with hundreds of books, tracts and invitation slips, were distributed among the men. Major-General Herbert, commander of the forces in Canada, personally thanked the secretary in charge for the work done by the Association.

The Association tent was also erected on the Exhibition ground in September. The attendance was very encouraging, the tent being often crowded to its utmost capacity, and scores of Christians bore testimony to having been refreshed by the words spoken and fellowship enjoyed at these meetings. No less than 4,000 people sat down to hear the Gospel, and a number were dealt with personally. There were several cases of professed conversion through the word of testimony borne by the Association workers amid the bustle and excitement of this great gathering.

The Association seeks the benefit of young men in their every relation. Physical training finds a place in their efforts. As an evidence of its care for the special subjects of its work, the following may be cited:—

During the past year the closing of the work of the day with family worship has been more systematically carried out than ever before. There were 1,900 young men at these pleasing, interesting and enjoyable services. Five hundred and fifty-three young men were directed to suitable boarding-houses, while over 1,200 letters were written at our correspondence tables. Large numbers of young men visited the rooms in search of employment, giving an opportunity for personal conversation, which was largely taken advantage of. Owing to the difficulty of securing situations in the past year only forty-one were found. On Christmas Day, through the kindness of a number of the directors, fifty of the young men who were away from home were invited to dinner. This was one of the most delightful meetings ever held by the Association, and so much was it appreciated that it is hoped that it will be an annual occurrence.

The membership now amounts to 1,303, including active, honorary and all other classifications. It is gratifying to see such a good report. It testifies to the good work being accomplished, to the unwearied diligence and self-denial with which it is carried on. It is cordially commended anew to the favourable consideration, sympathy and support of the Christian community and to all who are interested in the welfare of young men.

Books and Magazines.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.) It would be difficult to improve on this unique publication, so well fitted to interest, instruct and amuse the little ones.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Bros.)—The weekly issues of this ably conducted, and finely illustrated publication cannot fail to exercise an instructive and refining influence on its wide circle of readers.

THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS OF THE WORLD presents weekly to its numerous readers, not only fresh and clearly-expressed comments on current events and much interesting literature, but, true to its title and aim, illustrates what is of chief interest for the time with numerous superb engravings.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The young people who read *St. Nicholas* will only have themselves to blame if they do not turn out intelligent and well informed persons in their adult years. It is month by month filled with instructive and entertaining literature, liberally and finely illustrated.

LITTLER'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—Approaching very near its semi-centennial, this venerable eclectic weekly is apparently as young, vigorous and valuable as in its earliest years. The issue for October 1st, No. 2,518, is the initial number of the 195th volume and appears in an entirely new dress. Its old, familiar drab-coloured covers remain unchanged, but its interior has been transformed. With new, clear, and handsome type, and the great improvement noticeable in its general make-up, with its excellent paper and fine press-work, it compares favourably with any other magazine published; and, combined with the high intrinsic excellence which has ever characterized its contents, the *Living Age* must prove an even more delightful and desirable visitor than ever, and enter its Year of Jubilee under highly encouraging prospects.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—This great magazine has completed the twenty-second year of its publication. New and interesting features are to make their appearance in the next number. The issue for October contains among other good things, the *Lotto* portrait of Columbus as frontispiece. Archibald Forbes, the war correspondent, in his own graphic manner tells "What I saw of the Paris Commune;" "Picturesque Plant Life of California;" the conclusion of M. Stedman's very able series of papers on "The Nature and Elements of Poetry;" "Pioneer Pack-horses in Alaska;" "Architecture at the World's Columbian Exposition;" the sixth paper on "Christopher Columbus," by Emilio Castelar; and an able paper by Jeremiah W. Jenks on "Money in Practical Politics." In fiction, "The Chosen Valley," "The Chateleine of La Trinité," and "A Mountain Europa" are concluded. There are several excellent short stories and meritorious poems in the number. The illustrations are of a very high quality.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co.; Toronto: 11 Richmond Street West.)—The number for October contains: "The Greek Church and the Gospel," I. E. Budgett Meakin; "Imprisoned for Protestantism;" "Lengthened Cords and Strengthened Stakes," Editor-in-Chief; "Anti-Missionary Crusade in Turkey," Rev. James Johnson; "The Church of Russia," W. Armitage Beardslee; "Carey's Covenant," Editor-in-Chief; "Zarathustra and the Zend-Avesta," Alfred Hillebrandt; "Our Indebtedness to Christ for Temporal Blessings," II., Rev. T. Laurie; "Present Condition of Peasants in the Russian Empire," Vicomte Combes de Lestrade; "An Unique Missionary Meeting on the Himalayas," Rev. Jacob Chamberlin, D.D.; Extracts and translations from foreign periodicals, Rev. C. C. Starbuck; The International Department, edited by Rev. J. T. Gracey, D.D.; the Department of Christian Endeavour, editorial notes on current topics, by the Editor-in-Chief; the Monthly Concert of Missions, and General Missionary Intelligence, are all of them compact with most valuable and fresh information, which will be greatly appreciated by all who are interested in the progress of the Gospel at home and abroad.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The October *Atlantic* opens with an able paper by James C. Carter, entitled "Mr. Tilden." He gives an interesting resume of Samuel J. Tilden's place in public life. Mrs. Deland, in "The Story of a Child," gives some delightful passages in the life of her heroine, very cleverly written. Alexander Brown, author of the "Genesis of the United States," has a paper on "The English Occupancy of North America," and incidentally endeavours to put Captain John Smith back into his rightful obscurity. There is also a Calabrian story by Elizabeth Cavazza, called "Rocco and Sidora," and this, with Mr. Crawford's "Don Orsino," completes the fiction of the number. Mr. Hale's amusing papers on "A New England Boyhood," are continued, and Boston Common and his associations with it, forms the subject of this new instalment. Professor Shaler writes on a subject of the day, namely, "The Betterment of our Highways," and Mary A. Jordan has an article on "The College for Women." A stirring poem by Edith M. Thomas, entitled "Arria," another by Clinton Scollard, and some critical papers on "The Naulabka" and the "Wrecker," on "Cuizon's Persia," and on "Cavour as a Journalist," with the usual reviews and Contributors' Club, finish a number of uniform interest throughout.

THE ARENA. (Boston: The Arena Publishing Co.)—The October *Arena* contains another paper of the popular series now appearing in its pages on American actors. Another instalment of the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy in this number will prove of general interest. Among the papers treating serious moral, political and reformative problems are the following, all of which are from the pens of eminent thinkers: "Has Islam a Future?" "The Negro Question in the South;" "Should the House of Representatives be Limited to its Present Number?" "Social and Economic Influences of the Bicycle;" "The Church and the World;" "Astrology Fin de Siecle;" "Plea for the Prohibition Party," and the "True Character of Christopher Columbus," a scathing arraignment of the great discoverer, in which the author assails the idealistic conception of Columbus. The last half of the Symposium on Women's Dress, prepared under the auspices of the National Council of Women, appears in this number. Among the contributors are Lady Harborton, of London, Octavia W. Bates and Grace Greenwood. The editor contributes an illustrated paper in favour of improvement in woman's dress. The *Arena* is a worthy battle ground for the most advanced and progressive thinkers, and in its pages appears the best thought of many of the ablest minds of the age.