

unanimously the mind of the Council would occasion regret, and fail to secure the object of its mover, he urged its remission to the Executive Committee, who subsequently submitted one which substantially expressed the mind of the delegates. It was unanimously adopted, after starting a little discussion regarding the powers of the committee to amend motions submitted by delegates. The motion in the form finally brought in by the Executive Committee ended the discussion so far as the Council was concerned. Not so, however, with the mover. Dr. Pitzer has been fighting his battles over again in the columns of the press. To all appearance it will rest there. He has had the satisfaction at least of relieving his conscience, by stating his case and whatever satisfaction may arise from the conviction that he was in the right and the Council, and particularly the Executive, were in the wrong, he may now cherish undisturbed.

Dr. McKibbin, of Cincinnati, is still apparently in a belligerent mood. He writes to the *Interior* in defence of the rather sweeping criticism he expressed on theological tendencies in Scotland. Dr. McKibbin is a man possessed of a keen and vigorous mind, logical, withal, and also of strong feeling. It is natural for him, therefore, to give utterance to favourable opinions when he speaks, especially in extemporaneous debate. He now endeavours to make the charge appear less sweeping than those who heard him supposed. He says:—

My statement with reference to the scholars of Europe was qualified by the further statement, "at least I can name a dozen of them, Kuenan included." I may say that I added this with a view to prevent the general character of my previous assertion from too wide an interpretation, for I had in mind principally the Kuenan and Wellhausen school of critics.

If that were all he meant, Professor Lindsay had an easy task in showing that the general condemnation did not apply to the Scottish sympathizers with the Higher Criticism. Dr. McKibbin's position is that the logical outcome of that movement is to deny the divinity of Christ. However much the Scottish scholars may be disposed to accept the critical methods in vogue in Germany, they are by no means prepared to accept rationalistic conclusions concerning the person of the adorable Redeemer. Most of them are on record as emphatically protesting their belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Cincinnati theologian, however, is deeply convinced that the movement is dangerous in the extreme, and he concludes his letter with these impassioned words:—

In conclusion, let me say I deem the present crisis to be one which calls upon every child of God to pray for courage to be loyal to every word of Christ, and for a baptism of the Holy Ghost upon the Church of God, such as came down upon Great Britain under the ministry of Whitfield and the Wesleys, and such as in the opening years of this century swept French scepticism from our land, that it may sweep out of the Church this modern form of unbelief which in the very name of Christ boldly and constantly contradicts Him.

This is a prayer to which Christians generally can heartily say amen. At the same time there are many who have no sympathy whatever with unbelief in any of its forms who hold that consecrated scholarship has an important work to do in the sphere of modern research. The Word of the Lord endureth for ever. The obscuration that comes from a tentative and conjectural criticism can only be temporary. The clouds pass away, and the eternal light shines on in its splendour.

GREAT CRIMES.

THE prevalence of appalling crimes has set many people thinking. Those who take a roseate view of human progress have their pleasant dreams disturbed. The extension of educational advantages, now virtually within the reach of all, has not produced many of the good things that the friends of general enlightenment so confidently predicted. The advance of civilization, especially in the direction of material well-being, has not diffused universal happiness. Education has given special advantages to innate rascality, no less than to unbending integrity. The higher walks of criminality can boast of experts whose exploits have eclipsed the brilliant achievements in that line by their predecessors because of the education they have received. Civilization and material improvement have not banished personal and social discontent, for the reason that inequalities have been by their means only the more sharply brought out. What then, should we subscribe to the dogmas of a hopeless pessimism and conclude that popular education is a mistake, and modern civilization a failure? By no means; not while a God of infinite wisdom, righteousness and goodness governs the world.

It has to be remembered that publicity is given

to criminal acts with a minuteness of detail, formerly unknown. It does not, therefore, follow that crime is on the increase; rather the search-light of the press is turned on everywhere, and the chances of concealment have in consequence greatly diminished. This world-wide publication of the sayings and doings of criminals has also an unfavourable side. By means of it many are familiarized with forms of iniquity who would have otherwise remained in blissful ignorance of evil. Nor can it be doubted that the sensational details of crime spread out indiscriminately have an injurious effect on crude and ill formed minds, alluring many into evil ways. Reputable journals avoid the danger by rigorously excluding sensational accounts of crime, but then all journals are not reputable. In defence they urge that since the average reading public desire such circumstantiality of detail they are bound to supply the want. The real reason weighing with the journals that cater to the lower strata of public sentiment on these matters is that there is money in it. Mammon has much to answer for.

A feature of prevalent crime may be described as that of unparalleled atrocity. The series of White-chapel murders, the perpetrator of which is yet undiscovered, the frequent crimes that have taken place recently in various parts of the European Continent, the Deeming tragedies, the murders for which Dr. Neil has been condemned to death, and several others, are all marked by a callousness and cruelty that even the most depraved natures were deemed incapable of. Yet these hideous deeds stand out in all their terrible blackness against the light of nineteenth century Christian civilization. Why? Statistics show that of late years the average of crime has been perceptibly lowered. Never were remedial agencies more numerous or more zealous in their efforts to prevent crime and seek the reformation of the criminal class. Those efforts have not been without their reward, and yet these outbreaks of crime in its worst forms are startling.

The case of Dr. Neil shows that his infamous career was not caused by ignorance, or unfavourable conditions. He studied for his profession in McGill College, Montreal, but instead of seeking to attain success by honourable means and patient industry, he seems at once to have taken to disreputable ways. Even after this, while in Canada, he made a religious profession and engaged in Sabbath school work, all the while plying his nefarious arts. Fleeing from one place to another, he was at last convicted and sentenced to life-long imprisonment, but his sentence was shortened by friendly intercession. Here was an opportunity afforded for renouncing a criminal life and in a measure retrieving the errors of the past. The unhappy man seems never even to have wavered, but continuing to follow where his evil angel beckoned, until he had sounded a depth of infamy that happily is reached but by few mortals.

The career of this unprincipled man has its lessons. Here was one whose circumstances did not expose him to special temptations, and yet he went far astray. He seemed to have tempted the tempter. Vice had him in its grasp, and there is no evidence that he either struggled or longed for deliverance. A moral nature seemed wanting in him, and there was an apparent absence of the power to discern between good and evil, right and wrong. Does not the lurid beacon-light his melancholy life kindles show the need for early religious and moral training? No one who has a distinct conception that a righteous God rules the world to whom all are accountable could have followed the path he pursued. Society cannot with complacency hand over its criminals to the executioner and then imagine that its whole duty is done. But society is, in a sense, an impersonal entity without a distinct responsibility. The law in itself is but a weak instrument in working a moral reformation. It is incumbent on all who have the training of the young entrusted to them, in the home, the school and the Church to do their utmost in placing before the mind of youth the high purposes of life the Creator has designed, the responsibilities resting on each individual, and the incalculable blessings that attend an upright life. The inordinate value set upon the possession of wealth, and apparent worldly success, to a great extent dominate current thought. They are the subjects talked about in the friendly intimacies of life, in the home circle, everywhere. Is it wonderful, therefore, that in many cases moral distinctions become hazy and that people come to entertain the belief that wealth and position are the be all and end all of human existence? Is it strange, therefore, that in the keen and feverish struggle for the attainment of these, many fall into the snare of the Devil, and sacrifice their all in his service?

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This weekly in its modernized form continues to give its readers the best of current literature.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—*St. Nicholas* this month presents an admirable variety and numerous fine engravings, which cannot fail to be pleasing to its many readers.

HARPER'S WEEKLY, HARPER'S BAZAAR, and HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper Brothers.)—These publications exactly meet the wants of different, though large classes of readers. They are ably conducted, and from the number and quality of their illustrations they are very attractive.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—If children are not in these days provided with reading in every way suitable for them, it is not for the want of good material. No home where there are little children could have a better monthly magazine than *Our Little Ones*.

MORE has been said about Columbus during the last few weeks than was ever said before. If people do not know all about the discoverer of this continent they never will. The illustrated magazines and papers have made their readers familiar with nearly everything relating to his story. The *Illustrated News of the World* has given splendid pictures of places and objects related to the great man's life and undertakings. It has also given a very fine, large portrait of Lord Tenison.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The November number opens with a very interesting paper by Charles Dudley Warner on "The Holy Places of Islam." Dr. Wyeth gives a chapter of comparatively recent history, "Nathaniel J. Wyeth, and the Struggle for Oregon." "Along the Parisian Boulevards" by Theodore Child; "A Collection of Death Masks," third paper, by Laurence Hutton; "The Designers of the Fair," with portraits; "The New Growth of St. Louis" by Julian Ralph; and "Massinger and Ford" by the late James Russell Lowell. The short stories, poems and other departments of *Harper* are as interesting as ever. The Editor's Easy Chair contains George W. Curtis' last contribution, "A Plea for Christmas."

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—A fine portrait of Francis Parkman, the eminent historian, forms the frontispiece of the November *Century*. There is a brief sketch of Parkman from the pen of the late James Russell Lowell, with a note on the completion of his work, by Edward Eggleston. The opening paper of the number which, by the way, is "A Russian National Artist," with many characteristic illustrations from his works. The Paris Commune this time has two papers devoted to it, both adorned with realistic pictures of that terrible time. Archibald Forbes continues his graphic narrative, and C. W. T. tells "What an American Girl saw of the Commune." Other important papers are: "Does the Bible Contain Scientific Errors?" by Professor Shields; "Road Coaching up to Date"; "Letters of Two Brothers, Passages from the Correspondence of General and Senator Sherman"; "Autobiographical Notes" by J. Massenet; "Plain Words to Working-men," by one of them; Bishop Potter gives his views on "Some Exposition Uses of Sunday," and G. P. Bradford recalls "Reminiscences of Brook Farm." Edgar W. Nye—better known as Bill Nye—writes an "Autobiography of an Editor." A new story by the author of "The Anglomaniacs" under the title "Sweet Bells out of Tune," is begun. There are several short stories by eminent writers, poems of decided excellence, and other attractive features.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: The Frank & Wagnalls Co.; Toronto: 11 Richmond Street West.)—The *Review* for November contains much helpful material for those engaged in ministerial work. President Merrill E. Gates, of Amherst, writes on "The Christian as a Trustee." F. Burr, D.D., the well known author of "Ecce Coelum," has a second paper, suggestive and timely, on "Astronomy as a Religious Helper." Dr. William H. Ward, of the *Independent*, tells of "The Latest Palestine Discoveries." N. S. Burton, D.D., of Needham, Mass., brings out the parabolic nature of the Miracles of Christ. Professor Jesse B. Thomas continues the series of articles on "Denominational Federation." The sermon section is especially rich in its contents. In addition to Dr. MacLaren's sermon on "The Chief of Sinners," there is a timely one by Hugh Price Hughes on "The Use and Abuse of Party Politics." Archdean Sinclair, of London, writes on "Rich and Poor; or, The Friendship of Mammon." The names of other well-known preachers appear with these. Professor William Milligan takes issue with the Revisers in a contribution on the phrase, "The New Testament," which they have retained against the otherwise invariable signification of the word so translated. Professor N. E. Thompson, S. T. D., gives the third of his valuable papers on "Ethics and Politics." A practical article on "How to See Europe, Egypt and Palestine on Two Dollars a Day," is contributed by Rev. Camden M. Coburn, Ph. D., to the miscellaneous section.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—Mr. George Edward Woodberry, in his admirable paper on "John Greenleaf Whittier," has contributed perhaps the ablest critical review on Whittier's place in literature, and as is fitting in the pages of the *Atlantic*, to which Whittier has been so constant a contributor, Dr. Holmes has contributed a poem in his memory. The feeling which the Autocrat shows in these verses is so real that one forgets their poetic form, and they seem but the natural outpouring of the affection of a brother poet. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps has also a touching poem on Whittier, which was written as he lay dying. An instalment of Mrs. Deland's "Story of a Child" is given; and certainly no more sympathetic picture of the hopes and tears and temptations of childhood has ever been written than these chronicles of the adventures of Ellen; Mr. W. Henry Winslow contributes a paper on "Mr. Jolley Allen, a Revolutionary worthy and Loyalist." Dr. Hale's paper, in his series on "A New England Boyhood," is devoted to social relations, and gives an interesting account of his religious training at the Brattle Street Church. He also sketches the lecture system, tea-parties, and the fire department of old Boston days. A short story in two parts by Margaret Collier Graham, called "The Withrow Water Right;" chapters of Mr. Crawford's "Don Orsino;" an able unsigned political essay on "The Two Programmes of 1892;" a paper by Samuel W. Dike on "Sociology in the Higher Education of Women;" a paper on "Breton Folk-Songs" by Theodore Bacon, with translations; and a poem by Lizette Woodworth Reese, are among the other attractions of the number.