

His vigorous mind was not overlaid by the weight of others' ideas. His thinking was fresh, original and massive, expressed by tongue and pen with a clearness that rendered his meaning unmistakable. Dr. Ker's linguistic acquirements were great. While visiting in Detroit he took a solitary walk through Elmwood Cemetery. Beside the plot reserved for Germans a poor mother stood by the grave of her child. Dr. Ker approached her and, in the language of her Fatherland, spoke words of consolation to her. A reference to her native place so impressed her with its accuracy that she asked Dr. Ker to what German town he belonged.

Excellence characterized all the work in which Dr. Ker engaged. As a writer he was equally charming and instructive. He contributed occasionally to the magazines and reviews. Several years ago a volume of sermons by Dr. Ker was published, and met with a most cordial welcome. Competent critics were of opinion that since the publication of F. W. Robertson of Brighton's Sermons it was the most noteworthy volume of the kind that had appeared. The same book was republished in New York under the title of "The Day Dawn and the Rain."

Dr. Ker's death was sudden and unexpected. He was taken ill on Sabbath night, October 3. Principal Cairns, speaking of the death of his friend, said: Dr. Ker was one of the brightest ornaments of their Church, or of the Christian Church of our day. He was found at midnight on Sunday exhausted and unable to speak, but in perfect peace of mind, and in this state his spirit passed away.

FOREIGN MISSION SABBATH.

THE seventh of November next is to be Foreign Mission Sabbath throughout the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It is designed that special public prayer for Missions be offered in all the congregations and mission stations on that day. The missionary spirit is being diffused among our Churches, and interest in this, the distinctive work of the modern Church, is growing both among old and young. The ministers and office-bearers in the Church generally do take an interest in the promotion of the great work of evangelizing the world. The ladies have shown what can be done by systematic, intelligent and prayerful effort, and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society is extending its influence and usefulness year by year. It is nevertheless quite apparent that, even in the most active and public spirited of our congregations, there are numbers still apathetic to the claims of the world lying in wickedness, and, what is equally serious, apparently oblivious of the Saviour's parting commission to the Church.

The Foreign Mission Committee, now happily united, is anxious to see a marked advance in missionary interest and enthusiasm throughout the Church. The dimensions of the Foreign Mission work are yearly extending, the existing agencies require reinforcement, new opportunities are constantly presenting themselves; hopeful and encouraging results are apparent in every field in which missionaries of our Church are labouring, whether among the Indians of the Far West, in the distant islands of the Pacific, in Central India or in Formosa. Increase in contributions, fervent supplication for the Holy Spirit's outpouring on the Church at home, and the heathen abroad, and a truer spirit of consecrated liberality, would issue in blessing beyond the most sanguine expectation.

In order to promote this work the Foreign Mission Committee have had printed a large edition of the General Assembly's report, giving a full and interesting account of the entire Foreign Mission work in which the Church is at present engaged. Copies for distribution in every congregation and mission station can easily be obtained from officers and members of the committee. Principal Grant, of Queen's University, has also written a series of most interesting letters to the daily press, giving an account of the five Foreign Missions which the Canadian Church has undertaken. These have been neatly printed in pamphlet form for general circulation, and can readily be had by corresponding with Principal Grant.

The Foreign Mission Committee also earnestly request that all ministers preach sermons bearing on the subject of missions on the first Sabbath of November. May these prayers and efforts issue in blessing to the Church at home, to our missionaries abroad, and those among whom they labour!

Books and Magazines.

THE WESTMINSTER QUESTION BOOK FOR 1887. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This well-known and useful work needs no introduction to the many thousands who have been using it in past years. The new volume for 1887 is better than any of its predecessors. It contains the International Lessons for the year, with Golden Texts, Home Readings for all the days of the year, Lesson Plans, notes, questions, practical thoughts and maps, and is a most complete manual. It has been reduced in price.

COMING TO THE KING. By Frances Ridley Havergal and others. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—The appearance of this exquisite little book is a reminder that the year is waning. It is especially prepared as a gift book for the holiday season. It has everything to recommend it. The merits of Frances Ridley Havergal's Hymns have long since been recognized, and if possible they are becoming more highly prized than ever. Artistically the work is "a thing of beauty," and the price brings it within the reach of all who wish to be generous to their friends.

THE CHESTER COTERIE. By Kate Livingston Hamilton. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This is a vigorous narrative in which a circle of quiet young people work out certain problems of church work, especially the raising of money, without resorting to any methods not thoroughly defensible. At the same time this book shows us how these young people solved the higher problems of self-consecration and of brave service for their divine Master. The influence exerted by the members of this circle over each other is suggestive of that unconscious service which the young may render, and of the good they may do without design, if only their hearts and lives are right.

EARTHLY WATCHERS AT HEAVENLY GATES. The False and True Spiritualism. By the Rev. John Chester, D.D., pastor of the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—There are always many people ready to be duped by spiritualism. The desire to know something of the condition and the experiences of those who have gone from the earth, and also to hold communication with them, is very apt to spring up in the hearts, especially of a certain class of bereaved people. Though spiritualism has been exposed so often, yet there are always those who are silly enough to turn to it with a kind of hope. Dr. Chester's book, while showing much of the absurdity of spiritualism, also aims to show the nobleness of true Bible spiritualism, inasmuch as the Scriptures fully answer all proper inquiries concerning the state of the dead; and the communion of saints through Christ and the Holy Spirit yields far more real comfort than could come through any *seance* though communication were possible. This book contains a slight thread of story with a view to make the book more popular. It will do good.

THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—In these days of bustle and activity there is not so much leisure for quiet and thoughtful reading as our fathers enjoyed. As a result, the massive quarterly review is not now the power it once was. Only the best have been able to survive, and they fill the proverbial felt want. Those that remain are the best of the kind. The *Presbyterian Review*, under the managing editorship of Professors Briggs and Paton, does honour to the influential Church it so ably represents. The October issue contains "Hosea's Testimony to the Pentateuch," by Professor Green, D.D., LL.D.; "Home Missions and the Presbyterian Church," by Rev. Jos. K. Wright; "Instinct," by Professor T. S. Doolittle, D.D.; "Samuel Grube, A Short Chapter in the History of Philosophy," by Professor Nicholas Murray Butler, Ph.D.; "The Pecuniary Support of Churches" by the Rev. Erskine N. White, D.D., and "A Crusade Against the Albigenses," by Professor James C. Moffat, D.D. Critical and Editorial Notes and valuable and discriminating Reviews of Recent Theological Literature, complete an excellent number of one of the best theological quarterlies of our time.

RECEIVED—YOUNG FOLKS' ENTERTAINMENT. Motion songs, charades, etc. (Philadelphia: National School of Elocution and Oratory.)

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

UNION COLLEGE AND THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL, TOKIO.

The closing exercises of the Union Theological School and Union College, of Tokio, came off very successfully at the Meiji Kaido, Tokio. The day though warm was fine and breezy, such as commencement days should be. Arriving at the Meiji Kaido the American and Japanese flags at the gates showed that a gathering of no small national importance was to be held there. The number of vehicles arriving, and some Japanese military gentlemen on horseback, showed that all classes were interested in the Union Seminary and Union College commencement. Entering the hall we found it filled with a superior class of persons, among whom were several leading Japanese gentlemen of the capital. A liberal sprinkling of foreign ladies, in bright costumes, and gentlemen occupied the square before the speakers, and behind fifteen graduates of the two institutions were seated. The platform was occupied by the faculties of both institutions, including both foreign and native professors, besides whom we were glad to see the benevolent features of Dr. J. C. Hepburn, of Yokohama. Rev. Dr. Amerman presided, and the exercises were opened by reading of Scripture and prayer by Rev. George William Knox, followed by an address of welcome from the presiding officer. Then came

STUDENTS' ADDRESSES.

one in English, by one of the graduates of the college, and two in Japanese by members of the graduating class of the seminary. The subject of the English address was "Patriotism." The address was temperate in tone and fairly well delivered. The Japanese addresses on "The Importance and Responsibility of Domestic Mission Work" were delivered with ease and elicited applause. The concluding addresses were then given. One in English on "Impressions from Reading Church History," by Mr. Iwanaga Yoshitaro, of the seminary graduating class, was very easy and graceful in delivery and forcible in matter, having selected Athanasius, Ambrose and Augustine as examples of the moral courage inspired by faith in Christ and dependence upon the divine Spirit. This speaker's costume was the graceful Japanese dress, while the other theological students had dress cloth coats and white neckties, and the Union College graduates their uniform of gray with gilt buttons.

The address of Rev. Dr. Perbeck to the graduating class was forty-five minutes long, but was listened to with increasing interest to the end. His theme was the difficulties that lay in the way of the youthful preacher in Japan. He singled out especially the opposition of science, and the wrong and right way of treating this opposition. This was not by ignoring science, nor by trying to incorporate it, nor by dreading it. The utility of all this he ably set forth, and advised the reading of the best authors on both sides, the using of science and its facts for illustrations, and, above all, the living of a positive Christian life.

DIPLOMAS PRESENTED.

The presentation of diplomas to eleven graduates of the Theological School, by Rev. K. Ibuka, was followed by a short address in which he exhorted them not to be satisfied with small things, but to press on to the attainment of great things, and not to be discouraged with the difficulties of their calling. A song by ten of the undergraduates, in English, "Good-bye," was very spiritedly sung. The long metre doxology in Japanese joined in by the audience, followed by the benediction, pronounced in English by Rev. H. Harris, of the college, brought the exercises to a close.

The occasion, the first of its kind, of a united commencement of the above institutions must have been very especially gratifying to many of their patrons.

These institutions, the outgrowth of many years' labour at Yokohama and Tokio, have recently become united and are to assume a new name, commemorative of the age to which they owe their birth, and which we hope may prove prophetic of the influence they are yet to have in moulding Japanese civilization, viz.: Meiji Gaku In, or Institution of Learning of the era of Good Government, or Good Government College.

UNITED EFFORT.

For the information of persons at a distance, we should add that these institutions have hitherto been the result of labour spent chiefly by the American Presbyterian and American Reformed Church Missions. They have been joined in the Theological School by the Scotch United Presbyterian Church Mission, though no foreign member of that mission is at present engaged in theological instruction. The results of both institutions are for the benefit of the United Church of Christ in Japan, with which it is soon expected to have a still closer connection by the addition of several Japanese representative gentlemen to the Board of Trustees and Faculty.—*Japan Mail*.

If you want to interest your fellow Church members in Christian work tell them that THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN will be sent to them from now till 1st January for 15 cents.