

of David," by Rev. Peter Thomson, M.A. The second department comprises doctrinal study. Juniors undergoing examination in this department will have to study "The Shorter Catechism," by Professor Salmond, D.D., questions 1-38, and be prepared to write out correctly in full the answer to any question in the first part, questions 1-53 inclusive. Seniors in this department will be required to pass an examination on the first hundred pages of "The Shorter Catechism," by Alexander Whyte, D.D., and be prepared to write out correctly in full any question in the Shorter Catechism. The third department of study is historical, and for this year the subject on which competitors will be examined is "The History of the Reformation," by Professor Withrow, and for seniors, "The Reformation," by Professor Lindsay, D.D., is prescribed. It is designed that in this department different subjects embracing Church History, Church Government, the Sacraments, Experimental Religion, Evidences of Christianity and History of Missions will be taken up from time to time. Essays form the one feature of the fourth department. The subject prescribed for this year is "Israel in the Time of Solomon."

Those under twelve years of age, though not absolutely excluded, are not encouraged to appear as candidates for examination. The juniors will comprise all candidates under sixteen years of age; intermediate, over sixteen and under twenty, and seniors, those over twenty. Though candidates are not limited as to the number of departments in which they can compete, it is wisely recommended that they confine themselves to one or at most two. They can select for themselves the one in which they desire to be examined. The essay is open to juniors, intermediate and senior competitors. For the two former its length is limited to 5,000 words, while the seniors can enlarge to 10,000 words if so disposed. The essays must be forwarded to the Convener not later than February 28, 1890. All young people desirous of taking part in the work prescribed should consult their ministers and Sabbath school teachers, who will be prepared to give all the needed counsel and information. The report says: "Candidates must enrol themselves by handing to their respective ministers, on or before January 1, 1890, their names, ages on March 1, 1890, and subject or subjects on which they propose to present themselves. The minister will then transmit the application at once to the corresponding member for his Presbytery."

This excellent scheme is cordially commended to the attention of parents, but chiefly to the young people themselves, for whose benefit it has been devised. They should lose no time in making up their minds to make the best of their opportunities. In more ways than one it will afford them great benefit. Spare time that might have been wasted will be filled in with useful preparation, and the study of the subjects they select will give them a clear insight into divine truth of the utmost moment. As a discipline the course of study will be valuable. It is hoped that many of the young people from one end of the Dominion to the other will make up their minds to take part in the first examination arranged for in the Scheme of Higher Religious Instruction.

### THE OUTLOOK IN FRANCE.

THE elections in France were looked forward to with much interest by many besides the nation most deeply concerned in their results. In French affairs a crisis had arisen. Several issues of great importance were to be decided by the electors at the polls. The fate of the Republic was hanging in the balance. The question of war and peace was to a considerable extent involved. The formal question of revision of the Constitution was open for settlement, the influence of Ultramontanism was to a certain extent staked on the event, and the career of General Boulanger was to be virtually determined by the ballot-box. Though on account of so many second ballottings being yet required, the definite returns are at present far from complete, all doubt is now removed as to the stability of the Republic. France may be said to have emphatically endorsed her present form of Government, and Republican institutions are safe. A stable government, whatever its form, is indispensable for a nation's prosperity. The weakness of France for the last hundred years has been the lack of a government that received the people's confidence. This gave rise to uncertainty, and afforded encouragement to a succession of adventurers who aspired to rule France. The comparative success of the Third Republic has received a new demonstration by being sustained at the polls in the face of the opposition it has had to encounter since General Boulanger emerged

as a prominent political figure. Its survival of recent attacks has increased its prestige, and although it is the unexpected that happens, especially in France, it is reasonable to hope that its stability will now be better assured than it has been since its formation. The fact that it has successfully borne the strain to which it has been put will greatly strengthen the hopes of its friends, draw to its side the indifferent and materially check the hostility of its opponents. The thrifty peasantry and traders in cities and towns are averse to political change, and their influence will now be more firmly than before directed to the maintenance of existing institutions. The feeling is general in France and out of it that the Republic is safe.

Had the issue of the French elections been different from what it is, we should have had a perplexing variety of war rumours. A Franco-Russian alliance might have been formed, which, should it occur, would be a formidable menace to the Triple Alliance, which is supposed to have considerable influence in the maintenance of European peace. That the elections in France have rendered war impossible would be a too sanguine conclusion, and one that facts do not warrant, but there is little doubt that the triumph of Boulanger would have precipitated the conflict that so many regard as inevitable. Events make it plain that the mass of the French people are not so strongly bent on a war of revenge as has been so often asserted of late. Their preference is for peace, not war. It has been hinted that a war between France and Germany—but especially between France and Italy—would be rather agreeable than otherwise at the Vatican, because in the turmoil the Papacy might find an opportunity of regaining its much-coveted temporal sovereignty. The impression is general that papal influence was on the side of the enemies of the Republic, and this is borne out by the fact that immediately before the election a member of the French Cabinet issued a circular to the clergy forbidding them to take part in the political conflict. From the result Ultramontanism can only take cold comfort. If priestly influence has lost its hold on rural France, Vatican hopes have received a rude shock.

For years General Boulanger and his friends have been busy preparing the way for his advent to supreme power. Every device known to indefatigable schemers has been employed. Three or four years ago his praises were sung by a subsidized press, and even New York journals opened their columns to eulogies of the brave general. In office and out of it he and his heterogeneous friends have tried every scheme to keep him before the popular gaze and to advance his interests. The end of his adventurous career, so far as his designs on supreme power are concerned, has come, and he will cease to be feared or caressed. The setting of his star will not be deeply regretted anywhere. His affected heroism has been so tarnished that it is no longer respected. Moral influence he never had, and his sorry personality has been fully exposed by the recent trial at which he proudly declined to be present. Incompetent and brazen audacity may sometimes do much but it has its limits, and the man on horseback can now betake himself to the obscurity he is best fitted to adorn.

If France avails herself of the opportunity now afforded for advancing civil and religious liberty, she has yet a hopeful future before her.

## Books and Magazines.

**LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.** (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This periodical presents its readers every week with the best and most varied literature of the day.

**OUR LITTLE FOLKS AND THE NURSERY.** (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—The monthly advent of this carefully conducted little magazine brightens every home it enters.

**HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE.** (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—This first-class publication every week supplies varied, instructive, and entertaining reading matter, handsomely illustrated, to the many thousands who give it a cordial welcome.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT.** (New York: C. Venton Patterson Publishing Co.)—To all students of the Sacred Scriptures this ably conducted monthly, specially devoted to Biblical learning, will prove instructive and valuable.

A GLIMPSE into a Jesuit Novitiate is given in *Blackwood's Magazine* for September by one who was for eight years closely connected with the society, and left it on friendly terms, so that no bias is imported into the straightforward description given of the Jesuit training.

**ST. NICHOLAS.** (New York: The Century Co.)—This splendid monthly, specially designed for the instruction and entertainment of youthful readers, keeps the high place it has justly earned for itself. Its varied contents are suited to different tastes, but nothing that right feeling and a fastidious taste could object to ever finds a place in its pages. Reading matter and illustrations are of the best.

**THE BYSTANDER.** A monthly review of current events, Canadian and general. (Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.)—Though the name of the distinguished writer, who in the person of "The Bystander," gives his luminous and trenchant opinions on current events, does not appear on the title-page or anywhere else in this resuscitated monthly, all reading Canadians well know that the pungent force and felicitous diction flow from the pen of Goldwin Smith. Whether the reader agrees with the opinions expressed or not he must perforce read on and will growl or applaud either as he agrees or coincides with the distinguished publicist's views. The *Bystander* is certain to meet with a large measure of success.

**SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE.** (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—The new number of *Scribner* is an unusually attractive one, as a brief reference to its principal features will show. Joseph Thompson tells in a most interesting manner "How I Crossed Masai-Land." Several writers make contributions to a paper on "Electricity in War." Other finely illustrated papers are "A Summer in Iceland," by Charles Sprague Smith, of Columbia College, and "The Life of Benvenuto Cellini," by Edward J. Lovell. N. S. Schaler writes on "The Common Roads," and Donald D. Mitchell has "A Scattering Shot at Some Ruralities," having, among other things, reference to the present condition of farm life in New England. Robert Louis Stevenson's serial fiction, the "Master of Ballantrae," is concluded this month, and Harold Frederic's new story, "In the Valley," is continued. Short stories and poems of excellent quality find a place in the present number.

**THE CENTURY.** (New York: The Century Co.)—The October number of this standard illustrated monthly completes the nineteenth year of its publication. It has made steady advancement, and in artistic excellence its illustrations are unrivalled. The chief papers of the number are "In East Siberia Silver Mines," by George Kennan; "Moliere and Shakspeare," by C. Coquelin, the famous French actor. "Lincoln," by John G. Nicolay and John Hay, Lincoln's private secretaries. "Italian Old Masters;" "Three Jewish Kings," by Edward L. Wilson. "The Pretty Girls in the West;" "Maria Mitchell's Reminiscences of the Herschells." Educational subjects are ably discussed by various experts. Joel Chandler's "The Old Bascom Place," is concluded. Young E. Allison, Maurice Thompson and George W. Cable contribute characteristic short stories, and several poets of distinction are among the contributors to the number. Topics of the Time, Open Letters, etc., appear as usual.

**THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.** (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The *Atlantic Monthly* for October opens with a generous instalment of Mr. Bynner's serial, "The Begum's Daughter." "A Non-Combatant's War Reminiscences," by J. R. Kendrick, contains fresh statements with regard to the social and political condition of South Carolina before and during the war, and many incidents of peculiar interest. Another of Mr. Fiske's exceedingly valuable and readable papers on the period of the American Revolution is devoted to the "The Monmouth and Newport Campaigns." William Cranston Lawton contributes an article on "The Closing Scenes of the Iliad." A valuable article is an account of "The Government and its Creditors," by Mr. Henry Loomis Nelson. Agnes Repplier, in an article entitled "Fiction in the Pulpit," takes strong exception to the theory that a novel should be in any respect didactic or have any moral purpose. A paper which just now will be read with great interest by a large circle of readers is one upon the late President Woolsey, by Prof. J. H. Thayer, of Harvard. It is an admirable description of a thoroughly admirable man. The short story of the number is a negro tale entitled "Dave's Neckliss," a harrowing narrative of slavery times, by Charles W. Chesnutt. Sophia Kirk contributes a paper on "Prismatics," which discusses colour and poetry. L. D. Morgan writes of "Ladies and Learning," with reference to the old idea entertained concerning the education of women and the much broader and truer ideas which now prevail. There are three poems in the number, reviews of some important new books, and the usual variety in the Contributors' Club.