

ed God's direction and exercised implicit faith in His promises. A noted revival in Eastern Nova Scotia, a quarter of a century ago, began in a single Presbyterian congregation, in which the people rallied round their pastor during the week of prayer and before it ended extended to two or three counties with wonderful and blessed results. That evangelistic campaign was conducted by the pastors themselves, assisted by a band of men "whose hearts the Lord had touched." The blessed "Old, old story," preached and sung, proved the power of God to many. To-day in those congregations, the elders and office-bearers and Christian workers and praying men and women are largely those who were born into the kingdom during that revival.

If it is impracticable to organize an elaborate evangelistic campaign movement here, why should not individual Presbyterian congregations rally around their pastors and Christian workers and make the week of prayer—which seems to be altogether lost sight of in this city, the beginning of an evangelistic campaign which will lead to better results, if Christian people take God at his word, plead his promises in full assurance of faith, and earnestly seek to do His will in testifying for Christ. The command "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is addressed to every follower of the Lord Jesus. The promise, "Wherever two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them," is for every follower of the Master. The assurance, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you," is for every genuine lover of the Redeemer. In that wonderful prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John's gospel Jesus made use of the memorable words respecting his disciples: "As thou has sent me into the world even so have I sent them into the world." God sent His well-beloved Son into the world to save lost sinners, and Jesus sends his saved ones into the world to be the instrument of Salvation to others. Is there any reason, outside of the want of faith on the part of God's people and their faithlessness to their vows as professing Christians, why we should not have a great and blessed religious awakening all over Canada? Why should not the work be begun with the week of prayer.

The table of contents of the December Fortnightly Review is a most varied one. The opening article is a justification of the expression "The Greatest Colonial Minister" used by Mr. Balfour in speaking of Chamberlain. Then follow: "Race and Religion," "The Youth of Taine," "Socialism Sub Rosa," "Are the Public Schools a Failure," "The New Army Training and the Auxiliary Forces," and a number of other equally timely and interesting articles. Of special interest to Canadians is Archibald S. Hurd's discussion of "The Foreign Invasion of Canada." Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

Those whom God calls to a kingdom, he calls to sufferings on the way to it.—Archbishop Leighton.

### THE CRITIC'S CORNER.

I have been looking again over Dr. Parker's People's Bible and the original impression is confirmed that it is very helpful from the point of view of suggestive, inspiring exposition. Take, for instance, the volume on Exodus, the few pages of "General Notes" based on the writings of Cook, Rowlinson and Stanley, in which critical and historical material is given, are already out of date; that ground has to be gone over in a different fashion by the careful student; but when we come to the great body of the work, Parker's own field, that of preaching, we are in another sphere and we find things which do not easily grow old. A man who is a critical student, if he is at all fit to be a preacher, can with profit to himself and his congregation, place in his library some volumes of Matthew Henry and Joseph Parker side by side with the latest products of historical science. Take as an example, the note on Exodus 2:3, the placing of the child in the ark of bulrushes. Here is a fine passage that has its latest illustrations in the story of Dr. Parker's own life.

"The first going from home of any child, always marks a period of special interest in the family. What a going was this! When some of you went from home, how you were cared for! How your family gathered round to speak a kind farewell! What a box-filling, and portmanteau-strapping, what a fluttering of careful, anxious love there was! What has become of you? Were you suffocated with kindness? Were you slain by the hand of a too anxious love. Truly, some men who have had the roughest and coldest beginnings have, under the blessing of God, turned out to be the bravest, the strongest, the noblest of men. I believe in rough beginnings: we have less to fear from hardship than luxury. Some children are confectioned to death. What with coddling, bandaging, nursing, and petting, the very sap of their life is drained away. There is, indeed, another side to this question of beginnings. I have known some children who have hardly ever been allowed to go out lest they should wet their feet, who have been spared all drudgery, who have had every wish and whim gratified, whose parents have suddenly come to social ruin, and yet, these very children have, under their altered circumstances, developed a force of character, an enduring patience, and a lofty self-control never to have been expected from their dainty training. But a man is not necessarily a great man because he has had a rough beginning. Many may have been laid on the river Nile, whose names would have done no honour to history. Accept your rough beginning in a proper spirit; be not overcome by the force of merely external circumstances; wait, hope, work, pray, and you will see that path which leads into light, and honour, and peace."

And so the preacher goes on his way, showing his knowledge of present life, seizing the external part of the ancient history and making men feel that Providence is not a mere name but a glorious reality. This kind of work is always needed, it is needed most of all when men are boasting of scientific progress and material success. 'T was well to have the message proclaimed in powerful tones so that many heard it above the noise of the world's greatest city.

VERAX.

### VENEZUELA AND ARBITRATION.

On the whole, the latest news respecting the Venezuelan trouble is such as seems appropriate to Christmas week, namely, that the difficulty will be referred to arbitration, and bids fair to receive early and amicable adjustment.

Venezuela, as most of our readers are aware, is one of those so-called South American "republics," chiefly noted for the frequency of revolutions promoted by contending factions. Whether it is because of the unstable character of the inhabitants, or the climate, or something else, certain it is the phrase, a South American republic, stands for something quite other than a free, stable, self-governing Anglo-Saxon community.

This particular Venezuela, presuming on the Monroe Doctrine as upheld by the United States, has been repudiating its debts, public and private, and treating with contempt the representatives of European nations. To this treatment, Great Britain and Germany, acting in concert, have replied by seizing a Venezuelan harbor or two, sinking or seizing a Venezuelan war ship or two, with a little bombarding thrown in. To the surprise of Venezuela, the United States has looked calmly on; apparently taking the ground that while the Monroe Doctrine may be invoked to prevent European nations planting themselves permanently in either America, it cannot be invoked to justify national repudiation or national impudence.

It is something to have Great Britain, Germany, and the United States in tacit accord! As THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN said, a couple of weeks ago, they may be found acting together in some future and more important matter.

Very possibly, the Monroe Doctrine may not be as congenial to Germany as to Great Britain. The latter approved it when it was first promulgated. As it stands today, it is an incidental guarantee to Canada as a part of the British Empire. The Monroe Doctrine does not propose to meddle with things as they are—that is, with the past. But it does propose to prevent the appropriation by any European power of territory not now held by such a power.

That the difficulty with Venezuela is likely to be settled by arbitration, is, we repeat, a bit of news in accordance with the sentiments appropriate to Christmas week.

The Hesperian for January-March contains excellent matter in "Some New Johnsoniana." Considerable space is devoted to Zola. This bright little quarterly always gives one food for thought, especially in the realm of contemporary science. The Hesperian, St. Louis, Mo., U. S. A.

Mr. W. D. McLaren, 585 St. Paul street, Montreal, who manufactures and sells the celebrated 'Cook's Friend' baking powder, has sent his friends and patrons (indicative of his best wishes for the New Year) an extremely tasty and handsome calendar representing a dainty young Miss kneading dough, while beside her stands a bowl of flour, and beneath the whole the inscription, 'Grandma used "Cook's Friend," so do I.'