

to bring young men under the saving power of Christian truth. To this the main efforts of the Association are directed. Those to whom this work is entrusted possess excellent qualifications, and they are labouring diligently in the noble work to which they are appointed. The effort to make Christian young men themselves the instrument of influencing others has been crowned with encouraging success. They are being trained by practical effort to conduct meetings, to visit boarding houses, commending the institution to the good-will and confidence of many who would, so far as religious influence is concerned, be very much, if not altogether, neglected.

Wisely, it seems, the directorate recognize the fact that young men are many-sided. So far as the influence of the institution extends, it aims at making good and useful citizens of those who benefit by its provisions. Educational classes have been established, where the proficiency of the young man is advanced, and even rational and helpful amusement is not overlooked. The Association does nothing to perpetuate the delusion that religion must ever be associated with gloom and melancholy. There is no reason why Christian young men should not be among the sprightliest and most sunny-natured of the entire community. Much attention is also devoted to the careful and devout study of the sacred Scriptures. Bible study is the only solid foundation on which a stable and Christian character can be built, and it is the best possible equipment for good and efficient Christian service for the good of others.

Of late years the Association has sought to adapt its efforts to particular classes. The railway work has been highly appreciated by a class of operatives who have serious difficulties to contend with and whose calling, so serviceable to the people at large, is one of great danger. It is fitting, therefore, that Christian agencies specially designed for the benefit of employees should receive fitting recognition and liberal support. It is to be hoped that the extension of this branch of the work now contemplated will receive generous consideration from all who take an interest in railway men. The president, Mr. Robert Kilgour, intimated that it was intended to erect a building in the west end of the city at an estimated cost of \$40,000, and another to cost \$3,500 at the railway suburb of Little York. The financial affairs of the Association were reported to be in a satisfactory condition, though the statement was made that there were only about 300 Toronto citizens who could be regarded as regular contributors to the institution. A city the size of Toronto, and the centre of so much commercial and industrial enterprise, should in this respect far surpass Gideon's band. The Association was fortunate in being able to secure at the annual meeting the presence of Dr. A. J. Gordon, of Boston, who delivered a stirring and telling address, and also preached the annual sermon for the Association. Last Sabbath several able discourses at the suggestion of the Association were preached in various churches. The good work done in the past, and the increasing capacity for good-doing in the future, ought to commend this admirable institution to the most friendly regard, encouragement and support of the community. May its past success be the incentive to still greater achievements in behalf of that most interesting class from whom will soon come the men who will largely influence the work of the Church and help to shape the destinies of the country.

#### THE INTER-COLLEGIATE MISSIONARY CONVENTION.

NEVER since the days of the Apostolic Church has there been such a development of the missionary spirit as during the present century, and as the century is nearing its end that spirit is permeating the Church with ever-growing power. The energetic efforts of Christian women have done much to dispel the apathy with which the claims of the heathen world were too generally regarded. The young men prosecuting their academic studies have been largely reached by the prevalent enthusiasm in behalf of missions. In this direction great advances have been made during the last few years. Formerly a student here and another there might have felt the glow of missionary fervour, and resolved to devote his life to the preaching of the Gospel in a foreign land, but large numbers of university young men were comparatively unmoved and indifferent. This awakened interest has become general. It is confined to no one institution of learning, but evidently has a place in them all. Even the stately and most venerable universities of the new and the old

world can number among their graduates—and these not the least distinguished—many faithful and devoted workers in the various mission fields.

In keeping with the spirit and tendency of the time, this academic missionary awakening is denominational. Students usually are no strangers to fraternal feeling, but this common interest in Christian missions has sanctified and sublimed the student brotherhood, and as a secondary result it is bringing into closer sympathy those who in different institutions are pursuing their studies. The warm interest taken by students in missionary work has not been suffered to expend itself in mere emotion and purposeless sentiment. By organization, effort and purpose are concentrated, and as a result of the practical spirit of the time we have now the Inter-Collegiate Missionary Association. Its fifth annual Convention was held in this city last week, and its proceedings evoked much cordial sympathy in the Christian community. No fewer than twenty-six different colleges were represented. McGill University, Montreal, Toronto University and Victoria University, Cobourg, sent delegates. Members were present from various medical colleges. Lady delegates from several women's colleges were in attendance. As was expected, the Presbyterian colleges sent their quota. It is true that the more remote institutions in Manitoba and Halifax were unrepresented at the Convention, but this much can be confidently said for both of them, that in missionary ardour and enthusiasm they are behind none of even their foremost compeers. The delegates present were worthy representatives of their respective institutions.

The papers read, with their subsequent discussions, and the addresses delivered were all of a high order. They all bore directly on the immediate subject they had met to consider. There was much earnestness and directness in all the proceedings of the Convention, and the business was conducted with harmony and despatch. Where all was excellent it seems unnecessary, as it might be invidious, to particularize, yet one of the brief addresses, because of its exceptional character, claims special mention. It was that of Mr. Kono, a Japanese student at present attending Cobourg University. For several reasons it was extremely interesting. The modesty and diffidence of the speaker secured for him at once the sympathy of the Convention. He was a representative of a nation among whom at the present time the Gospel is gaining one of the most significant triumphs of the century. What he said was also full of interest. To have Buddhism and Christianity clearly compared and contrasted by one so competent to institute such comparison was worth listening to with the closest attention. A more intimate knowledge of ancient heathen systems would dispel many of the illusions that a contracted estimate of the forces missionary effort has to encounter in the older civilizations of the east. The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell was strictly correct when in his address of welcome he said, "Superior men should be sent to the remote parts of Canada, but superlatively good men should go to the foreign mission fields."

Without impropriety it may be freely said that the most conspicuous figure of the convention was the Rev. Dr. Gordon, of Boston, who, with Dr. Arthur Pierson, may be ranked as one of the foremost advocates of Christian missions in the American Church. In personal appearance he is commanding, his countenance indicates massiveness, force and sympathy. He impresses his hearers with the conviction that he is richly endowed with moral and spiritual strength. From everything that savours of affectation and pretence he is singularly free. With a fine rich voice, perfectly modulated, his style of address is easy and natural and therefore impressive. He has the courage of his convictions, and these he expresses with a clearness and emphasis that command entire respect. He is evidently gifted with a fine enthusiasm, which his well-balanced nature tempers and restrains. His sermons and addresses are made additionally attractive by an excellent use of illustrations drawn from incident, history, art or science as the case may be. These illustrations are used with a rare judiciousness. They are not introduced for purposes of mere embellishment or to fill space. They are evidently employed for the double purpose of sustaining interest by the introduction of a permissible variety, and chiefly to make his meaning more explicit, and making that meaning unmistakably clear. Dr. Gordon's short stay in Toronto was no mere holiday visit. His friends seemed resolved upon working him up to the full measure of his capacity and of getting all from him that could be got. In addition to his attendance at the Convention he spoke at the annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association and preached their annual sermon on Sabbath after-

noon. On that day he was called upon for four separate discourses, preaching in the morning the Inter-Collegiate sermon in St. James Square Church, in the evening in the New Walmer Road Baptist Church, and the address at the closing meeting of the Inter-Collegiate Convention afterwards.

However willing Dr. Gordon, and men like him, may be, it is not well that demands on them should be too exacting. Grace may exult in self-sacrifice, but it should not be forgotten that nature has its limits. The Inter-Collegiate Convention and the visit of Dr. Gordon in connection with it have done much to promote the work for the world's evangelization among the Christians of Toronto as well as elsewhere.

#### Books and Magazines.

GRIP'S COMIC ALMANAC. (Toronto: Grip Printing and Publishing Co.)—Grip's right hand has not lost its cunning. In point of freshness, genial hearty humour the issue for 1890 will compare favourably with the best of its predecessors.

SANTA CLAUS. (New York Philadelphia and Boston: The Santa Claus Company.)—This is the fifth number of a new magazine for young people. The contents are varied, instructive and entertaining. The principal story in the November number, "Wreckers of Sable Island," is a serial by a Canadian author, J. Macdonald Oxley.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE JOURNAL. (Montreal.)—The November number of this academic monthly leads off with "Our Graduates' Pulpit," in which Rev. W. J. Dey, of Hamilton, preaches a good sermon on "Assurance." Dr. Thompson, Sarnia, continues "Special Points in Homiletics," and Principal MacVicar's admirable lecture delivered at the opening of the session, on "How to Meet Unbelief," is reproduced. "The Mission Crisis" has several excellent papers, one by a former editor, Rev. J. H. MacVicar, B.A. The other contents of the number are varied, timely and appropriate. The *Journal*, now entered on its ninth volume, deserves cordial support.

THE CENTURY. New York: (The Century Co.)—The present number of this splendid monthly begins the twentieth year of its existence. The success to which it has attained is a strong guarantee that the progressive excellence that has uniformly characterised it in the past will be maintained in the years to come. The number opens with a well written and very readable portion of Joseph Jefferson's autobiography. A feature of much interest in this number is the first of a series of "Present Day Papers." It is by Dr. Langdon and treats of the family, the State and the Church in their relation to the problems of modern society. A paper on "The Newness"—New England Transcendentalism—by the late Robert Carter, will be read with an amused interest. The strong papers of this number are Kenan's "Adventures in Eastern Siberia" and the Lincoln History—the collapse of the war of rebellion being reached. New serial stories by F. Stockton and Amelia Barr are begun. Mark Twain has a characteristic contribution, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," which will be greatly relished. A number of other attractive features complete a most excellent number of this popular monthly.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co.)—A paper by Mr. Woodrow Wilson, on the "Character of Democracy in the United States," opens the *Atlantic Monthly* for November, and it is an excellent specimen of the kind of consideration of politics which makes the *Atlantic* so particularly valuable to thoughtful persons. Another political paper called "The French in Canada" is contributed by Mr. Eben Greenough Scott. Artists and amateurs will be interested in "Allston and his Unfinished Picture." "Materials for Landscape Art in America," by Charles H. Moore, of Harvard University, will also interest the same class of readers. Mr. James' "Tragic Muse," Mr. Bunner's serial, and the short story called "The First Mayor," by Octave Thanet, form the fiction of the number; and there are also "Some Romances of the Revolution," "The Nieces of Mazarin," and a most amusing and lively sketch on "Marie Bashkirtseff," which gives a pretty picture of a "daughter of Gaul." The remainder of the number is made up of careful reviews and the usual departments. The magazine has that scholarly and literary air which particularly endears itself to the man of letters.