

PARTY.

"Party," says the Toronto News, "is a thing not to be worshipped but to be used as long as it serves public ends; and when it ceases to do that, to be discarded and punished. It is not the master but the servant of the people, and to talk of allegiance being due to it by its members is ridiculous. If a great cause is to be advocated its friends will naturally combine and thus fulfil Burke's celebrated definition. If there is no such cause, the parties simply become rival organizations, seeking public support on the ground that they can give the people good administration. Such a rivalry might be honorable and even generous, and might produce good results for the country. But when, in the absence of great issues, it assumes the form of frenzied devotion to one side and hatred of the other, when the name of Grit or Tory, as the case may be, is pronounced in accents of anger and contempt, partyism becomes a superstition as degrading as the mediaeval belief in witchcraft."

The United States Secretary of Agriculture in his annual report, after showing that the products of the United States farms in one year are worth \$4,900,000,000, states that the hens of the United States lay 1,666,000,000 dozen of eggs a year, a total of about 20,000,000,000 eggs, or enough in one month to pay the interest of the entire national debt of the United States for one year.

It is rather surprising that the farmers of Canada do not "catch on" to the money that is to be made in producing eggs. Even the home market is not liberally supplied in our towns and cities, and in winter time people are glad to get them at fifty cents a dozen. Of course, the business of raising eggs requires that the best breed of hens be produced, that they be housed and fed scientifically, and that the business be followed patiently and systematically. All this is quite practicable. It is a vastly more profitable pursuit than horse-racing or betting on sport.

The Christian Observer remarks that it is gratifying to know that the subject of Sabbath Observance is receiving increased attention by the officers of the great railroad systems of the country. "The better element of the country is protesting against the desecration of the Sabbath, and demanding that railway employees be given one day of weekly rest. Many of the railroad wrecks, so destructive of human life, and so costly to railroad corporations, are the result of the wearied condition of those in charge, due to excessive labors, without the stated periods of rest that nature demands. The fact that Sunday excursion trains, so demoralizing to the community, are not profitable to the railroads, is being realized, and some of the largest roads in the Central Passenger Association have discontinued them. Sunday railroad excursions never pay in the long run." Why cannot the managers of the great railways of Canada and the United States get together and determine that nothing but absolutely necessary work shall be done on their lines on the Sabbath; and that their trainmen shall have one day in seven for rest and worship? Such a reform would be a boon to railway men, and it would pay the railways in dollars and cents.

Literary Notes.

The Christmas number of Canadian Good Housekeeping (Toronto) is an excellent, number containing as it does many pages of helpful suggestions in regard to preparations for Christmas—for Dinner, luncheon, gifts, and all the other points that have to be decided on at this season of the year. The long story in the number, "The Angel of the Christmas Tap," by Countess Alda von Krokow, is delightful.

THE BIBLET for December does not need review, but merely mention, as it contains the poems of one whose reputation is established, viz., those of Matthew Arnold, the apostle of sweetness and light. "The Strayed Reveller and other Lyrical Poems." The poems illustrate Arnold's own words placed on the title page.

Below the surface stream, shallow and light,
Of what we say we feel—below the stream,
As light, of what think we feel—there flows
With noiseless current strong obscure, and deep
The central stream of what we feel indeed.

The December Fortnightly, (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York,) opens with an article on "Russia and England" under the two headings, "The Navy as Peacemaker" and "Anglo-Russian Relations." Alfred Stead writes on "Why Japan Will Win," and Geoffrey Drage "A Note on Russian Finance." Fiona MacLeod's new book, "The Winged Destiny," is reviewed at some length, and F. G. Aflalo has his annual article on the new sporting books of the season.

The opening article in the December Contemporary, (Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York,) is by John Edward Ellis, M.P., on "The House of Commons and Its Present Leader." Then follows an article on "The Lesson of the German Water Ways," by O. Eltzbacher. Other subjects of interest are: "Germany and England," by Professor Paulsen; "Religion, Science and Miracle," by Sir Oliver Lodge; "The Newest Army Scheme," by Charles E. Hobhouse, M.P. Foreign Affairs are well discussed by Dr. E. J. Dillon; and "A Reader" has his usual clever contribution on "Some Recent Books."

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND AFTER, (Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York, 40 cents.) Here is a budget sufficiently varied in its contents. We can have "Table Talk" by Mrs. Frederic Harrison; or we can study English politics under two competent guides; or we can plunge into the theological controversy which at present rages round the name of Bishop Gore; or if we want something less subtle, and more practical we can study "Motor Traffic and the Public Roads," and even this does not exhaust the possible alternatives in this highly varied and interesting number of a favorite periodical.

THE BONANZA BIBLE CLASS, by Henry F. Cope, (Winona Publishing Company, Chicago) reminds me in some features of the racy writings of our own "Ralph Connor." The author succeeds in vividly portraying nature and human nature as found in mountain canyon and pine, and he describes most attractively that unknown and always romantic region of the Rockies where men are to-day as free and as unconventional as they were in Fortyniner times. Once commence reading, and you are bound to peruse every page till you come to the last line on the last page. Price, net \$1.00

HERE is a booklet at the remarkable price of 3 cents, on "John Knox and his Times," by P. Hume Brown. It is made up of 24 well printed pages and 17 illustrations. We need the information given in such condensed form just as much here as in Scotland; and our Sunday School Library Committees should arrange to introduce "John Knox and his Times" into every Sunday School from Halifax to Victoria. Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier, of Edinburgh, are the publishers.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE, (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York) for December, contains a lot of good reading matter. On the war we have the graphic chapters by "O." in his "The War in the Far East." "On the Choice of a Public School" is an exceedingly helpful article written for the use of English parents who have to decide on which school their son will be sent to. "The Dream Fair," by Alfred Moyes, is beautiful and poetic both in expression and idea. Perceval Gibbon has another of "The Vrouw Grobelaar's Leading Cases," and there are also instalments of the two serial stories, "Richard Hartley, Prospector," and "The Rawhide." "Old Ebony" is always well up to the mark.

JAPANESE FLORAL CALENDAR, by Ernest W. Clement (Open Court Co., Chicago). This is a beautiful little book very suitable for the Christmas season, well printed and with good illustrations. The author says: "The Japanese are a nature-loving people and frequently give practical expression to their feelings by taking a holiday, simply for 'flower viewing.' At the proper season, the entire nation, so to speak, takes a day off and turns out on a big picnic, to see the plum blossoms, or the cherry blossoms, or the maples, or the chrysanthemums. No utilitarian views of the value of time, or miserly conceptions of the expense of such outings prevail for a moment; for the Japanese are worshippers of beauty rather than of the 'almighty dollar.' The writer speaks from references and enables one to see clearly this side of the life of the flowery kingdom.

APPLIED THEOLOGY. By Rev. F. C. Montfort, D.D., Pp. 234. Price, postpaid, \$1.00. Published by Montfort & Co., Cincinnati, O. This book is both doctrinal and practical. It discusses the doctrines commonly held among Presbyterians in language which the average reader can understand. Its purpose is set forth in the preface, which is as follows: The value of things depends on their use. Art for Art's sake is beautiful to those who appreciate it, but "Art applied to industry" is useful to humanity. Pure mathematics is the perfection of mental discipline, but "Applied mathematics" is the better half of almost every other science. So Theology finds its best use when applied. Every doctrine has its practical side. Thoughts of God suggest duty and privilege. It is the purpose of this book to discuss doctrines with emphasis on their application to practical life.

A Boston paper states that a Yale college student, who was then dying of typhoid fever, contracted the disease by studying fever microbes in the laboratory. In handling the deadly germs he contracted the disease, and in a short time was stricken.