

in calling upon the civic authorities to take the matter in hand, for it is their duty to keep the streets free from nuisances, and why should the ear be called upon to endure offence any more than the nostrils? It cannot æsthetic culture do anything towards removing this crying evil? Is it not possible for a little "sweetness," or "light," or some beneficent influence or another to percolate from the exalted platform of the superlatively respectable and highly cultured class down to the lower strata of society? Why not open a mission school of culture? Alas, is it true, as has sometimes been suspected, that mere æsthetic culture and indolence go together?

All religious men, all men of culture, and all men, whatever may be their standing either in religion or in æsthetics, who appreciate the decencies and proprieties of civilization, ought to follow the example of the ladies and frown this thing down. He who listens complacently to the profane swearer and keeps up a conversation with him is to some extent a partaker of his guilt. He who turns away when he hears an oath, and who regards the first profane word as the signal for cutting the conversation short, even though it should be in the middle of a business transaction, soon finds that those who address him will be very careful of their language. Such restraints, often repeated, would have the effect of causing "adults" who are addicted to this vice to break off their evil habit almost unconsciously; and when these quit, the "youngsters" will soon follow their example.

KNOX CHURCH, TORONTO.—IMPROVEMENTS.

THE interior of this fine old building is undergoing almost entire renovation. A new floor has been laid, with an elevation at the outer end of fourteen inches above the old level, affording a sufficient fall towards the pulpit to enable every person in the audience to have an unobstructed view of the preacher. The pulpit has been lowered two feet and a new semicircular platform has been constructed in front of it. The old straight pews—apparently not much the worse for their age—may be seen ranged in piles outside the church. Some struggling congregation in the newer parts of the country could, no doubt, obtain possession of them at very small cost, and might find them serviceable for many a year to come. The space which these formerly filled in Knox Church is to be occupied by curved—or what are generally called circular—seats of the most approved pattern. The angles of the gallery have been rounded off so as to correspond with the shape of the new seats. The ceiling will require only such renovation as will bring out afresh the dimmed beauties of the oil painting; but some additional ornamental work is spoken of. The contrivances for ventilation will be such as will provide a constant supply of fresh air in all parts of the building without any injurious or annoying draughts. An organ is in course of construction and will be placed in position before the church is reopened. By an arrangement similar to that in the Jarvis street Baptist Church, the organist will be concealed from the view of the congregation. The whole cost of these repairs, alterations and additions, including the organ, will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$9,000. The seats alone will cost \$4,000.

The carpenter work is about finished, and it is expected that the congregation, now meeting in the school-room—a spacious apartment capable of accommodating about 1,000 people—will occupy the refitted and much improved audience room of the church in about five weeks from the date of this paper. Almost everything will be new to them, the principal exception being the pulpit. May we not well suppose that while, in the midst of unwonted comforts and conveniences, all will wait with pleasure and profit on the instructions of the preachers of to-day, the thoughts of many will sometimes go back to a period when their minds were more capable of receiving impressions than they are now, and when they eagerly drank in the saving truths of the Gospel from the lips of the preachers of a by-gone time? And if so, may we not also well suppose that many an eye, now perhaps somewhat dimmed with age, will sometimes rest lovingly on the familiar face of the old pulpit—the pulpit of Robert Burns and of Alexander Topp?

REV. DR. WARDROPE returned to Guelph on the 23rd ult. from his holiday.

PRESBYTERIANISM IN WINNIPEG.

THE columns of one of our morning city contemporaries are at present enlivened by a series of brilliant letters from the pen of Principal Grant, now on his travels in the North-West. We cannot make room for any of the glowing descriptions; but we crop the following as supplying the very latest news affecting Presbyterian interests in Winnipeg:

"The Board of Management of Manitoba College deserve great credit for the energy which they display. Four months ago they bought a site in the outskirts of the city for \$6,000 which they could now sell for \$18,000. On this site—four acres and a half in extent—they are erecting a wing of the College, as it is to be. The wing is to contain class-rooms, a chemistry laboratory, a house for the Principal, and accommodation for forty resident students. The building material is the whitish coloured native brick, faced with native limestone which is also of a whitish hue and very pretty, and apparently durable stone. The cost, including site, furnishing, heating, gas, etc., is estimated at \$41,000. To meet this they have so far only \$11,000, the proceeds of their former property, and \$12,000 which the citizens of Winnipeg have subscribed. When the citizens have paid this, they will just be in the humour to subscribe the balance of \$18,000 required. The Board of Management go forward fearing nothing. None of their investments is likely to pay them better. Winnipeg is very well off as regards church accommodation. The only building of architectural pretensions is Knox Church, its graceful spire shooting up into the sky, marking the site of the city to the traveller on the prairie for miles around. Yesterday I drove out to Bird's Hill, a gravelly eminence to the northeast, ten or twelve miles away, and at that distance the spire of Knox Church stood out boldly defined against the sky, almost the only distinctive mark in the vast circle of surrounding prairie. Last night the Presbytery of Manitoba sanctioned the organization of a second congregation, the members of which intend to build in the north-east end of the city. They have parted from the parent congregation in the most friendly spirit, actuated solely by a desire for the common weal, and instead of grudging the loss which they sustain by the secession of valued members, the trustees, session, and congregation have unanimously voted them \$500 towards the erection of the new church. This, too, although Knox Church has a debt on it of \$12,000, representing an annual burden of \$1,000."

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

GOOD COMPANY (Springfield, Mass.) is as racy, instructive and morally wholesome as ever.

LORIMER AND WIFE. By Margaret Lee. (New York: George W. Harlan.)—This story opens among the fashionable and frivolous, but by and by finds its way into earnest and active life, and teaches several wholesome lessons. The price of the volume is 50 cents in paper covers, or \$1 in cloth.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The publisher has changed, but the same old editor, Mary Mapes Dodge, remains on the cover, and there is abundant internal evidence that she is still at her post. In the September number there is a rich treat in store for those boys and girls who take this magazine, or who have it provided for them.

HAND BOOKS FOR BIBLE CLASSES. The Confession of Faith. By Rev. John Macpherson, M.A. (Edinburgh: F. & T. Clark.)—Among the many useful books belonging to this series, that now before us ought to rank high. The text of the Confession, with the very full notes and the introduction of forty-eight pages, supplied by Mr. Macpherson, constitute a complete scheme of systematic theology.

THE GOSPEL IN ALL LANDS. (New York: Eugene R. Smith. Price: single copies, 25 cents; \$2 50 a year.)—The September number of this excellent missionary publication possesses even more than usual interest and attraction. Instead of giving missionary news from all parts of the world in every number, the plan of the publisher of this magazine is to devote the whole of a number to some particular country or mission field, the next number to some other field, and so on. The field passed under review in the number now before us is India, one of the most extensive and populous mission fields in the world. These forty-eight pages of fresh reading matter, with their thirty-three equally fresh illustrations, will make the readers of this magazine pretty well acquainted with what is being done, and what there is to do, in India.

PAPERS FOR THE PRESENT TIME. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs, Willard Tract Depository.)—Two of these tracts have been sent to us for notice. That by the Rev. H. M. Parsons on "Spirit, Soul, and Body," evinces considerable ability, and great power in the matter of close packing; but really such a subject as this cannot be popularized in a sixteen-page pamphlet.

Very many of the statements made require at least some explanation and elucidation, if nothing more. The author ought to write a much larger treatise on the subject. The other paper is on "The Atonement," by the Rev. George S. Bishop, D.D. This tract contains an epitome of the scriptural doctrine of the atonement, with proofs, illustrations, and answers to objections—the whole admirably arranged, tersely expressed, and in every way well fitted to overcome that terrible obtuseness which seems to characterize the average modern mind in view of this the fundamental doctrine of the Christian religion.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Little & Co. Price \$8 per annum.)—It must be kept in remembrance that this magazine is published weekly, although in shape and size it resembles the monthlies; so that in the course of the year the subscriber receives fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each. When this is taken into consideration it will be seen that the price is very low. The numbers for August 20th and 27th contain articles on Madame de Staël, from the "Quarterly Review;" President Garfield, from the "Nineteenth Century;" a New Study of Tennyson, from the "Cornhill Magazine;" A German Silver Wedding, from the "Argosy;" Carlyle and Chalmers, from "Good Words;" Personal Reminiscences of Lord Stratford and the Crimean War, from "Temple Bar;" Burmese Bells, from the "St. James Gazette;" Up Stairs in Westminster Abbey, and A Congress of Domestic Economists, from the "Saturday Review;" The Destruction of Small Birds in Europe, from the "Pall Mall Gazette;" and many other interesting and valuable papers.

SIN AND SALVATION. By Henry A. Nelson. (New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co.; Toronto: Willing & Williamson. Price 1s.)—This book is likely to become a favourite among the more intelligent class of religious people. The author's style is chaste, quiet and lucid—sufficiently animated to sustain attention, but at the same time in full keeping with the solemnity of the subject. The expression is natural and easy, while the thought is often very striking. The nature of the contents will be understood from the headings which the author has given his chapters. The book is divided into two parts—the first treating of Sin and the second of Salvation. In Part I. we find: (1) Sin as an Act, (2) Sin as a State, (3) Sin as a Disease, (4) Sin as a Separation from God, (5) Sin as an Inheritance, (6) Sin as a Delusion, (7) Sin as a Doom. Part II. contains: (1) Salvation as an Act, (2) Diverse Beginnings of Salvation, (3) What is Essential to the Beginning of Salvation, (4) Early Beginning of Salvation, (5) Salvation as Healing, (6) Salvation as a Return to God, (7) Salvation as a Recovery from Delusion, (8) Salvation of Households, (9) Salvation of Society, (10) Salvation Consummated.

IN the acknowledgments for the "Hall Fund" last week, "per W. A. Reid" should be, Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, per W. A. Reid, \$14.

THE HALL FUND.—Collected in Mitchell, Ont., in aid of the family of deceased by Mrs. Dougherty and Mrs. Cornell, and received per the Rev. J. W. Mitchell, the sum of \$26.

AT the close of last week almost everybody had abandoned hope in President Garfield's case; but he experienced a favourable turn last Sabbath, and since then further indications of improvement have been continuously reported up to the time of our going to press.

THE "Christian Helper," a Baptist paper which has been published in this city during the past two years, has been purchased by the Baptist Publication Society, and incorporated with their new publication, the "Baptist Weekly," the first number of which makes its appearance this week.

IN the notice of Rev. A. B. Baird's ordination by the Presbytery of Stratford, which appeared in our issue of last week and which was taken from a local paper, there were several—no doubt unintentional—errors, which Rev. Mr. Waits corrects in a note which we have just received. Mr. Waits says that, in his charge, he did not tell the newly ordained minister to guard against offensive doctrine; made no comparison between the pulpit and the press; did not tell Mr. Baird to use mild words about wine-drinking, etc.; did not say that speculation was not dangerous; and did not refer to any work of Milton.