

Books and Magazines.

The first two articles of *Knox College Monthly* are devoted to the late Rev. Dr. Reid, and are by Rev. Prof. Gregg, D.D., and Rev. John Neil, B.A. "The Great Temptation" is the fourth of a series of articles by the Rev. James Middlemiss, D.D. There appears in this number a reprint of a valuable paper on "The Origin of the Truths Found in Ancient Hinduism," etc., by Rev. K. S. Macdonald, M.A., D.D., read before the last Calcutta Missionary Conference. "Some Young People's Societies" (III.) is by the popular pastor of Ooke's Church in this city, Rev. Wm. Patterson; and Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, contributes "Counsels to Ministers in View of Modern Thought." The missionary department is taken up with a paper read by Rev. R. P. Mackay at a Conference of officers of Mission Boards held in January last in New York, and is on the important subject "How to Increase the Efficiency of Missionaries in the Field." "Our College," "Bible Study," and "Literature," containing notices of new books, bring up the rear. Accompanying this number, in conclusion, we may say, is a very excellent likeness of the late Rev. Dr. Reid, which will be highly prized by all whom it reaches. [F. N. W. Brown, Toronto.]

The March *Atlantic Monthly*—besides the continued articles, "The Country of the Pointed Firs"; "Pirate Gold," and "Some Memories of Hawthorne"—contains a large number of interesting and valuable articles. We may mention the following as likely to be of greatest general interest: "The Irish in American Life"; "A Seminary of Sedition," a story of colony-founding, the scene of which is Virginia; "A Holy Island Pilgrimage," an account of Lindosfarne as a retreat for the weary brain-worker; "Two New Social Departures," being the foundation of an Industrial Union of Employers and Employed, and the holding in London of the first International Co-operative Congress; "The Case of the Public Schools—I, The Witness of the Teacher"; "A Chapter in Huguenot History"; "Comments on New Books," and "The Contributor's Club," are varied and interesting as usual. [Houghton, Mifflin & Company, Boston, U.S.]

In *Scribner's* March number, as President Andrews' great History serial draws to a conclusion, the very entertaining quality of it, which has been generally acclaimed, is intensified. The March instalment contains a pictorial record also that is unique in magazine illustration, giving thirty-five pictures in one article. The third instalment is given of Barrie's extraordinary serial, "Sentimental Tommy." The scene from this point for a long time will be laid in the now immortal "Thrums." An important article by Richard Whiteing, of the *London Daily News*, is "British Opinion of America." "Carnations" is the subject of an article which makes a feature of this number; while three papers give an unusual artistic interest to it. In short fiction we may mention the stories: "The Lost Child," and "A Chameleon," an amusing character sketch. The three closing departments are full of timely matter. [Scribner's Magazine, New York City, N.Y., U.S.]

The March number of *Harper's Magazine* contains, as usual, several features of special interest, and fully and tastefully illustrated. "On Snow-Shoes to the Barren Grounds" (fifteen illustrations); "Arcadian Bee-Ranching" (five illustrations); "Colonel Washington"; "The German Struggle for Liberty"; and "The Nerves of a War-Ship." Fiction includes an instalment of "The Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc"; and other tales and sketches are "Where Fancy Was Bred"; "The Boss of Ling Foo"; "James Hubbs's Salvation," a Salvation Army Story. Junius Henri Browne contributes a study of "Money Borrowers." Charles Dudley Warner, in the Editor's Study, pictures "A Dream Republic," and discusses "The Strong Story"; and the "Editor's Drawer" contains a variety of humorous anecdotes, verses and pictures. [Harper & Brothers, New York City, N.Y., U.S.]

In "The Progress of the World" department of the *Review of Reviews* for March, South Africa, Armenta and Venezuela occupy a large amount of attention with many other matters of world-wide interest. "Current History in Canada" contains some very good things. Woman's affairs bulk largely under the heading of "The General Federation of Women's Clubs," and "Household Economics as a University Movement." Roentgen's X Rays naturally have an article devoted to them. Several pages are devoted to "A Review of Canadian Affairs," by J. W. Russell. The now famed Cecil Rhodes, of South Africa, is the subject of the month's "Character Sketch." There follow after this the usual comprehensive notices of the "Leading Articles of the Month," "Periodicals Reviewed," and notices and reviews of new books, English and American. [Review of Reviews Co., 13 Astor Place, New York, N.Y.]

The *Montreal Presbyterian College Journal*, for February, is attractive both in its mechanical make up and its contents, which are as follows: "The Hidden Life," a sermon by Rev. W. M. Tufts, M.A., B.D., Hawkesbury, Ont.; "An Institutional Church," by Rev. D. J. Fraser, M.A., B.D.; "Honor," by Rev. K. MacLennan, B.D.; "Theological Education in the United States," by Rev. Professor Ross, B.D.; "Hard Sayings of Christ"—No. VIII., by Rev. Professor Scrimger, D.D.; "Higher Criticism and the Pulpit," by Rev. Thos. C. Hall, I.D., Chicago, U.S.; "College Note Book"; "Partie Française"; "Talks on Books"; "Inter-Collegiate Debate," and "Editorial," among which the Book-Talks are interesting and very helpful, close an excellent number. [George D. Ireland, B.A., Box 42-St. Catherine St. Centre, Montreal, Quebec.]

"A Doubting Disciple, or Thomas Didymus," by the Rev. Edward W. Gilman, D.D., Secretary of the American Bible Society, is an interesting study of the character of the doubting disciple. The writer is the author of a series of excellent tracts of which this is one. Price 10 cts. [Thos. Whitaker Bible House, New York.]

harvest. To stand still, if that were possible, would be a dishonour, would be disobedience and unfaithfulness to Christ. To extend therefore into regions beyond, to enter into new forms of Christian service is not only a duty, it is the very condition of the Church's life; for to stand still is to begin to die.

In view of this necessity of extension laid upon the Church in the providence of God, and of this law of her life, the question of funds is one of prime importance. We presented, therefore, for the Church's information, in our last issue, a statement prepared by the Rev. Dr. Warden, which would enable all at a glance to see how the funds of the Church stand, which schemes are most in need, and what prospect there is both of the efficient maintenance of the work which we have now in hand, and of the extension of it as the call may be made and opportunities for it offer whether at home or abroad, and in connection with any one of its various branches.

The statement referred to reveals a state of things as to the funds which calls for serious attention, and also for prompt action on the part of all congregations or individual members who have not yet contributed their aid to these schemes. There was, it will be noticed, a deficiency in every fund except that of Home Missions on March first of this year, as compared with the same date last year, amounting to \$9,520. It may be hoped, and it is most devoutly to be desired, that before the books are closed in only a few weeks now, what is lacking may be made up, and every committee be enabled to report to the General Assembly a balance on the right side.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT REPORT.

Of all dry reading, the driest for the most part to the majority of people are parliamentary reports. To some even this one would be no exception, but to all humane and philanthropic people it will be the very opposite. It is not often we fancy, the Hon. Mr. Gibson, Provincial Secretary, has a report presented to him beginning in this style:

"They are such little hands.
Be kind. Things are so new, and life but stands
A step beyond the doorway. All around
Each day has found
Such tempting things to shine upon, and so
The hands are tempted hard, you know."

A subject more important to the interests of society at large could hardly be reported upon than that of Neglected and Dependent Children, which is the name given to the one before us. Society has been learning for a long time—and by what a slow and toilsome process!—the secret of taking care of itself and how to cure or avoid the many ills which it is heir to. One would think it is a thing so obvious that it could not escape discovery, that the way to cleanse society and keep it pure and clean, is to cleanse the fountain—that is, to begin with children and youth; and yet it is only of comparatively recent years that this has been attempted according to any large and systematic method. In the time during which this method has been tried, while great progress has been made, yet, to quote from this report: "We stand to-day only on the threshold of human progress and Christian advancement." It is only by long and painful experience and effort that society rises to that sense of its own dignity and importance as an organism, as to turn its attention towards the discovery and carrying into effect of those means by which it can be truly improved and carried forward step by step in the path of advancement.

To discover these means requires not only much wise thought, but a great deal of heart, and in addition, to obtain the best results, very much of the spirit, and heart, and conduct of which we have the highest and only perfect example in Him who came "to seek and to save that which is lost." This report leads us to hop much from the official, Mr. J. J. Kelso, superintendent, who chiefly has charge of this most important work, because he recognises and seeks to act upon these foundation truths and principles in all child-saving, as well as in saving youth and manhood. He lays down these as fundamental principles:—

"There is one great preventive of crime, one great antidote to instincts inherited from the past, and that is education and cultivation of the whole nature of the child." To this he adds what we profoundly believe:

"We may give to dependent and delinquent children education and industrial training, yet if their moral nature is neglected, if they are not taught their responsibility to man and their accountability to God, our efforts will be very unsuccessful. 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself,' is the divine command, given by one who knew all that was in the heart of man. Just in proportion as our efforts reach and control the moral nature, they will be productive of permanent good."

It is two and a half years since the Act for the Protection of Neglected Children was introduced into this Province through the enlightened views on this subject of the Hon. Mr. Gibson, M.P.P., Provincial Secretary, and although the work among us is still in its infancy, it is gratifying to know that "substantial progress has been made, and the desirability and practicability of the Children's Act has been fully demonstrated." A great amount of the work, and perhaps that part of it which in future years will be most fruitful of good, is of a kind that cannot be tabulated and shown in statistics, "the great silent influences for good, the moulding, we might almost say the creating of a new public sentiment upon this subject, the bringing about of a better observance of the laws designed for the protection of the young." While this is the case it is encouraging to note that while at the beginning of the year over which this report extends there were but—

"Thirteen Children Aid Societies organized, at the present date there are twenty-nine societies for this object, some of them engaged in large and effective work in their particular districts. The placing of homeless, dependent children in foster homes, which is one of the main features of this law, has made admirable progress, the total number of children recorded as having been placed in families under the Act during the period of two years, being one hundred and eighty-six. Of this number one hundred and fifteen have been placed out during the past year, and the indications are that as the public are beginning to understand the object of the societies, much greater progress will hereafter be made in this respect."

From a humane point of view simply, this cannot but be rejoiced in as a most beneficent and encouraging result.

There are many utilitarians who, not valuing so highly the moral and humane aspects of this work, will estimate its worth chiefly in dollars and cents. Even in this aspect of it, this divine work of child-rescue can be shown to be most economical, as well as most merciful. When we think of the cost to the State of one person who, owing to the circumstances of his birth and upbringing, has grown up a criminal, all in the least degree competent to judge will agree with Mr. Kelso when he says:

"Many boys and girls who might have drifted into a hopeless and aimless existence, if not into a career of aggressive crime, have been rescued and permanently removed from the ranks of the dependent class, and the expense of caring for them in public institutions rendered unnecessary by rapid placing out in adoptive homes. Had even a small proportion of the total number mentioned as provided with homes been sent to or retained in public institutions, the cost of their maintenance until able to support themselves would have amounted to many thousands of dollars. This is so evident that it requires no demonstration."

During the two and a half years of the operation of this law, the report goes on to say, in vindication of the economy to society of this way of protecting and keeping itself wholesome and pure, both in the present and the future:

"From an examination of the work done in other places, I am satisfied that in no country in the world can the same results be shown for so small an expenditure. The intricate work of developing a new system has been carried on; societies have been organized; ill-treated children have been protected; many children have been provided with permanent homes and at the same time removed permanently from a condition of public dependency; literature issued on all phases of the work, in addition to three extensive parliamentary reports; and yet the entire amount expended by the Province for this work during over two years has only been about \$6,000. The work has more than justified the wisdom of the measure, and has amply demonstrated its great economy—with probably a past and future saving to the various municipalities of not less than \$25,000."

Many other points of great interest and of public importance are suggested by this report, which is packed full with valuable information on a subject which is bound, as society improves in intelligence and morality, to occupy more and more of its thought and attention, and which we hope to notice from time to time, and thus help on one of the most wise, humane and Christian efforts for human well-being. Meanwhile, sufficient has been said to awaken consideration, and we hope call forth practical help and co-operation on behalf of those who, under the government, have in charge this noble work.