

designed for the care of the outcast and the orphan. The intemperance and vice of parents throw many helpless little waifs out in the streets, and they speedily drift into criminal ways. The education of the streets is of all forms of education the very worst. In the average mind there is a dislike of paternal government, but when parents forego their natural duty, ought they not in justice be made to discharge that duty or permit society for its own safety to undertake it for them? The law that some municipalities in Ontario have enacted is a good one and well designed, that at a certain hour in the evening all children should be in their homes. If individual parents are indifferent as to where their children are late in the evening, society should not be unconcerned.

The experts who write in the *Independent* are also unanimous in their condemnation of evil books, dime novels and the like, lotteries and gambling. These unquestionably all of them avenues leading up to moral wreck and ruin, and all who have the care of the young should be vigilant in their efforts to secure the suppression of these moral plagues.

Those who have been actively engaged in reformatory work may not have much time for the study of science and philosophy, and their opinions may not have the same value that attaches to the matured views that experts in the sciences have formulated in the seclusion of their well-appointed studies, but their practical observations are entitled to respect. The question of heredity has been considered by them, and, with one exception, they are disposed to discard what is now generally in scientific circles regarded as a well-ascertained fact. With them, however, the question is practical, not theoretical. Even the one upholder of the doctrine of heredity does not take a pessimistic or fatalistic view of the outlook. He agrees with all his brethren that if children are only young enough removed from their vicious and criminal surroundings the criminal taint may be overcome and a moral and virtuous life is possible for those whose parents have been criminal. The experts who take the other view fortify their opinion by giving instances of children trained in reformatories who in after years have risen to high rank in the social scale, and have become ministers of the Gospel, skilful physicians, eminent barristers and judges, and Governors of States. One other thing they all insist upon, and which our prison reformers in Ontario have rightly urged, is the complete separation of juvenile offenders from the adult prisoners who fill our gaols. They insist that our prisons shall no longer serve as schools for the graduation of youthful criminals.

Above all true philanthropists who draw their inspiration from the teaching of the Gospel realize that the one remedial force is faith in Him whose blood cleanses from all sin, and who said to the doomed but penitent malefactor: "To-day shalt thou be with Me in paradise."

PRINCIPAL CAIRNS.

THE cable has flashed the news that John Cairns D.D., LL.D., Principal of the United Presbyterian College, Edinburgh, has entered into his rest. For some time past it was generally known that he had been in failing and feeble health, and it was understood that attendance at the forthcoming meeting of the Presbyterian Alliance in Toronto would be too much for him to undertake, but it was not generally expected that the end of a useful and honoured life on earth was so near. Beyond the meagre announcement in the cable despatch, little is known here of his closing days.

John Cairns, the name by which he was familiarly known throughout Scotland, was born near Ayton, Berwickshire, August 23, 1818. All the members of the family were strong in intellectual ability as well as in moral worth. His early training was received in his native locality. At the age of sixteen he entered at Edinburgh University, where his scholarly proclivities soon became manifest. He stood high in the affections of his fellow students and in the esteem of his professors. He graduated with distinction, and afterwards went to Berlin, at a time when Hengstenberg taught theology and Neander lectured on Church History. It was not so customary then for Scottish students, least of all those belonging to the United Presbyterian Church, to take a course at a German university as it soon afterwards became. The fashion had not then set in. His profiting soon became apparent, and in his case it was evident that contact with the leading minds in German theology and philosophy had

no unsettling effect. From that time to the close of his life he was in thought and teaching distinctly evangelical. Soon after his return to Scotland he was called to the pastorate of the United Secession Church in Berwick-on-Tweed, in succession to Professor Balmer. He entered on his pastoral work with all the fervour and enthusiasm of a great and noble nature, and was speedily endeared to his growing congregation. Though singularly modest, and devoid of all self-seeking, his great abilities as a preacher were soon recognized, and frequent were the calls upon him to occupy prominent pulpits in the leading cities throughout Scotland. When Dr. David King resigned the pastorate of Greyfriars Church, Glasgow, a unanimous call was addressed to Dr. Cairns, with the promised salary of \$2,500, and the guarantee of another \$2,500 from a few of the wealthier members of the congregation. This, however, was declined, with a statement that the pecuniary aspect of the matter was not a determining factor, and that he preferred the comparative quiet of the border town where he could have more leisure for the prosecution of his theological and philosophical studies. On the death of Professor John Brown, there was a strong desire to secure the services of Dr. Cairns for the Divinity Hall, and after a delay of a few years he was appointed professor of Apologetics, and after the death of Professor Harper the Chair of Systematic Theology was also assigned him. When the theological curriculum was remodelled in 1879, and the two months' session extended to five, Dr. Cairns was appointed Principal of the United Presbyterian College, an office he honorably and ably filled till his life-work was completed.

So early and so generally were his great attainments recognized that it was said the late Sir William Hamilton desired that Dr. Cairns should be his successor in the Chair of Metaphysics in Edinburgh University, but the pastor and theologian could not be induced to leave his chosen vocation for which he had an invincible preference. His scholarship was varied and extensive. His linguistic attainments were as distinctly marked as were his philosophic breadth and culture. At the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in Berlin, Dr. Cairns was appointed to reply to the address of welcome, and so free, fluent and classic was his German speech that all present wondered and admired, and the Berlin correspondent of the *London Times* spoke in unstinted terms of praise of the impression produced by the Scotch minister from Berwick-on-Tweed.

Among the published works of Dr. Cairns may be mentioned an edition of Cudworth's "Intellectual System," to which he wrote an introduction "The Life of John Brown, D.D.," to which his son, of "Rab and His Friends" memory, appended a characteristic letter; "Unbelief in the Eighteenth Century" the Cunningham Lectures for 1880; and several apologetic works of great value. There is no trace of dogmatism even in his controversial writings, of which his short critique of Renan's "Vie de Jesus" is a good specimen. His mental grasp was too large and broad for that. Neither on the other hand did his conscientious habit of looking at a subject on all sides reduce his convictions to a diluted uncertainty. His convictions were strong and deep, but he held and spoke the truth in love in such a way that charmed and edified. As a preacher he was without a peer in the Scottish pulpit. There was a massive grandeur in the sweep of his thought, a direct and living earnestness, and, along with a chaste and finished style, a simplicity that the least educated could follow with profit and delight. The character of the man was as simple as it was grand. Principal MacVicar who while attending the World's Sunday School Convention in London a few years ago tells that he spent a glorious day with John Cairns in Edinburgh, and that in conversation with an accomplished lady in the Scottish metropolis he remarked: "I imagine John Cairns is the grandest Scotchman to-day." "John Cairns," she replied, "is the grandest Scotchman to-day, and everybody says so, except John Cairns."

A great, a good life in its rounded completeness has been finished on earth. A clear shining temple lamp has been extinguished in the lower sanctuary, but the memory of its bright radiance will long linger. For many a year to come John Cairns will be affectionately remembered by all who have come within the range of his strong and elevating influence. The faithful servant has been called home, but the Master abides; and as one after another of the noted preachers of righteousness is removed, He says: "Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world."

Books and Magazines.

THE MANITOBA COLLEGE JOURNAL. (Winnipeg.)—The young men of the Prairie College conduct their academic monthly with much ability and spirit.

AN evidence that spring is near is the appearance of seed catalogues. In artistic excellence the get up of these spring harbingers is very noticeable. Messrs. D. M. Ferry, of Windsor, Ont., have issued a very handsome "Seed Annual."

CANADA. (Benton, N. B.: Matthew R. Knight.)—This literary monthly gives increased evidences of vigour and success. It is a credit to the Maritime Provinces. The March number contains varied contributions from several of our best known Canadian writers.

EARLY REMINISCENCES OF MANITOBA COLLEGE. By Rev. George Bryce, LL.D. (Winnipeg: Manitoba Free Press.)—The interesting address delivered by Professor Bryce as honorary president of the College Literary Society, at its opening meeting of the Session, has been printed in pamphlet form. It is a contribution to the history of the higher education in the North-West.

ECCLESIASTICAL AMUSEMENTS. By Rev. E. P. Marvin. Introduction by Rev. Drs. Hall and Crosby. Fortieth thousand, revised and enlarged. (Syracuse, N. Y. A. W. Hall.) The fact that this neat little booklet has reached so large a circulation is a proof of its merit. Many a worthless publication may circulate by tens of thousands, but it requires a strong book to run counter to popular currents and yet find many thousand readers. That this little book, which has received cordial endorsement from Dr. John Hall and the late Dr. Howard Crosby, is a strong, valuable and useful work, goes without saying. The position it takes is one with which we are sure many will sympathize. The author states the case with great clearness and force. The book deserves careful reading and the subject is worthy of the best consideration.

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDENT. (Hartford, Conn.: The Student Publishing Co.)—In the March number of the *Student* there are several papers that will be read with interest, such as "The Order of the Epistles in the Development of Christianity," by the Rev. Henry G. Weston, D.D.; "Suggestions for the Preparation of an Expository Sermon on the Eighth Chapter of the Romans," by Professor English; "Did Jesus Intend to Teach that Moses wrote the Pentateuch?" by Rev. W. P. McKee; "The Imprecatory Psalms," by Professor W. W. Davis; and "The Expedition of the Babylonian Exploration Fund, New York to Aleppo," by Robert Francis Harper, Ph.D. There are several other suggestive things well worth reading in the present number.

THE QUARTERLY REGISTER OF CURRENT HISTORY. (Detroit, Mich.: The Evening News Association.)—The February issue of this most valuable publication is a model one. Without heating about the bush, it strikes right at the very heart of its subject-matter. From a clear and interesting treatment of international affairs, it proceeds to a series of splendid articles on "Affairs in Europe," "Affairs in Africa," "Affairs in Asia," and last but not least, "Affairs in America." Under this last heading is included the Presidential discussion, the proceedings of Congress and the Legislatures, the state of trade, finance and general politics. An elaborate treatise on the latest developments in Canada is an interesting feature of the number.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE JOURNAL. (Presbyterian College Montreal.)—The March number of the *Journal* is one of great excellence. The Rev. M. MacLennan, of Kirkhill, Ont., occupies the Graduate's Pulpit with credit to himself and profit to his readers. His sermon on "The True Staff of Life" is a good one. Professor Barbour, of the Congregational College, writes on "Current Unbelief" with thoughtfulness and in a fine spirit. Professor Scrimger, with his accustomed judiciousness and scholarly care, discusses the crucial question of the day, "One Isaiah or Two." Other papers in the number are "Manning and Spurgeon," by W. T. Herridge, B.D., of Ottawa; "Personal Recollections of Spurgeon," by Rev. Justin D. Fulton, D.D., and "God's Gift of Beauty and Art to Man," by Andrew T. Taylor, Montreal. The usual contents are fresh and interesting. It need hardly be said that the "Talks About Books" are one of the specially interesting features of the *Journal*.

GEORGE C. LORIMER, D.D., the personal friend of Spurgeon, some months ago arranged with his publisher, James H. Earle, Boston, to prepare a volume on the great London preacher. The public will share with the publisher's feeling that Dr. Lorimer's popularity in the pulpit and on the platform, his rank in his denomination, his rare charm of diction, his profound thought, his wit and humour, his personal acquaintance with Mr. Spurgeon, mark him as the fitting one almost of all other living men, to speak of the lifework of the great preacher and of the sources of his power; and at the same time ensure a careful presentation of times and conditions which helped to make Spurgeon what he was, and which were in turn, and in no small degree, moulded by his marvellous inspiration and power. The volume will be specially attractive, in matter and make up, and sold cheaply. One of the portraits will represent him as he appeared in his youthful ministry; the other, which is from a photograph selected by Joseph Cook for his own study, shows him in the maturity of his later years.

CHARACTER SKETCHES Illustrated. By George A. Lofton, A.M., D.D. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—It is usually considered that the briefer and more suggestive a title page can be made the more it will accord with the canons of good taste. To this there are occasional exceptions, and this book is one of them. The full title page explains in brief the character of the work. It reads: Character Sketches; or the Blackboard Mirror. A series of illustrated discussions, depicting those peculiarities of character which contribute to the ridicule and failure, or to the dignity and success, of mankind. Also a number of moral, practical and religious subjects, presented in an entirely new and striking manner, illustrated with over fifty engravings from the original blackboard drawings. An extract from the preface fittingly and fairly describes the book. The work enjoys the distinction of being original, both in manner and method. It treats practical every-day subjects, as well as moral and religious truths, in a manner that is new, unique and attractive to the reader, young or old. Unlike most other works of a moral purport, it avoids the stilted and Puritanic manner of expression so commonly used, and, on the contrary, is brimful of sparkling wit, diverting humour and entertaining anecdotes.