

Books and Magazines.

They have the assurance of the divine presence with them in their work. The one thing that need concern them is that they be found faithful in the service to which they have consecrated their lives. It is theirs to sow the good seed of the Word, it is God's to give the increase.

When the foreign missionary has to encounter trial, disappointment and danger, when dark and ominous clouds gather and his outlook is dreary, all who are interested in the progress of the Gospel feel deeply concerned. They watch the course of events and pray for the protection of those exposed to danger and the advent of more favourable conditions. Those who have read of the work of Alexander Mackay in Uganda will continue to regard with interest the struggle going on in that land between light and darkness. The latest tidings are by no means encouraging. The Rev. James Johnston, who was secretary of the famous Missionary Conference held a few years ago, writes that affairs in Uganda are in a critical condition at present. What may virtually be described as a religious war is in progress. The cruel king Mwanga, at whose instigation Bishop Hannington was murdered, after a period of expulsion from the throne, was restored by the intrigue and aid of the Roman Catholic party in the kingdom. In return for the aid given the king favours the Roman Catholics and his Prime Minister leads the Protestants. While those who profess to be the followers of Christ are thus engaged in deadly strife, the Arabs and others are ready to take advantage of the opportunity to forward their own interests, which are certain to be detrimental to the safety of the kingdom and the cause of the Gospel. The state of affairs in Uganda is causing much anxiety. The people are wretched. Starvation is doing its deadly work among them, and the king has a cruel disregard for the lives of his people. The constant and unscrupulous efforts of the Roman Catholic priests to secure ascendancy over the king and his affairs have a most injurious effect. The Protestant missionaries sought only to have the opportunity for carrying on their evangelistic and educational work without molestation: the Roman Catholics, true to their traditional policy, have intrigued for political influence, and the result has been disastrous in Uganda. How the present conflict may end it is impossible to anticipate.

It is pleasing to turn to another mission on another continent. Readers will remember that a few years ago our missionaries at Indore had to face great difficulties and encounter serious opposition. Under certain malign European influences their efforts were hindered at every turn. Things have greatly changed and changed for the better. The account in another column of the Maharajah Holkar's generous gifts to the Indore Mission will be read with grateful feelings by many who heard with deep interest Mr. Wilkie's account of the work in which our Church is engaged in Central India. It must be specially gratifying to the Canadians who contributed to the building fund of Indore College to find that their efforts are so cordially appreciated by those for whose benefit the institution is designed. The people here will sympathize heartily with their devoted mission band in Central India in their joy at seeing their work so prosperous and promising. May this hopeful beginning be the prelude of a glorious day for the Central Indian Mission.

THE NEW ORLEANS TRAGEDY.

WHEN great wrongs are perpetrated in a community there is an impulse in usually well-regulated minds to avenge these wrongs by direct and summary methods, without waiting for the tedious and uncertain action of the law. It is pleaded that desperate diseases demand the application of desperate remedies. That good is evolved from evil is true, but that is no justification for doing evil that good may come. Will a man's good intent absolve him for the evil action by which he seeks to bring about the intended good? It is well known that amid Italian misrule, before the unification of the kingdom, lawless and cruel organizations sprung into existence. Public opinion was suppressed and secret societies for various purposes became numerous and some of them powerful. There can be no doubt that some of these cryptic institutions were criminal in their intent. Brigandage reached alarming proportions, and there were regions in the south of Italy where travellers could not penetrate with safety. Sicilians are a hot-blooded and impulsive race. Some of them would never hesitate to inflict a wrong; few of them would think of suffering a wrong to go unavenged. Hence vengeful and cruel customs belonging to a

barbarous age linger still. The Mafia has of late come into unenviable prominence. It is said of it that it is virtually composed of a band of assassins. The Italian authorities have been measurably successful in their endeavours to suppress the lawless gangs that formerly did so much mischief and brought disgrace upon their country. It seems strange that secret societies owing their origin to the peculiar conditions of old-world political life, should be transplanted, take root and grow amidst American civilization. Among the Anglo-Saxon communities on this continent there is no need of concealment. Speech is free and the institutions of the country are consonant with the spirit of liberty. What proper and laudable undertaking, therefore, can be advanced by swearing blood-curdling oaths and the employment of the assassin's dagger? The presumption is that a society that works in the dark and employs murderers as its agents ought to have no place in a civilized country.

About six months ago the chief of police in New Orleans was shot down by the agents, it was averred, of the Mafia. It is asserted that he had been impressed with the dangerous character of this exotic secret society, had learned much of its nature and operations. For this reason, it is said, his life was ruthlessly taken. It was the first duty of the authorities to bring his murderers to justice. Evidence accumulated against several persons suspected of implication in the crime. Through the machinations of a private detective, described as an infamous scoundrel, it is generally believed that members of the jury were bribed, and as a result all the accused were acquitted. But now follows the vengeful and terrible tragedy which has turned the eyes of the civilized world on the city of New Orleans.

A number of prominent citizens voiced the general feeling of indignation at the miscarriage of justice at a public open-air meeting hastily convened. The few speeches made were of the most inflammatory description. No time was allowed for reflection. Under the leadership of those who addressed the meeting the frenzied mob hastened to the gaol, where the Italian prisoners were still confined. All remonstrance of officials in charge was silenced, every barrier between the unhappy and maybe criminal objects of their vengeance was swept aside, and with short shrift eleven cowering Italians were shot down or hanged. The deed done, the crowd dispersed, and sedate corporate bodies met and passed resolutions approving of the merciless work that had been so effectively accomplished.

It may be that such a society as the Mafia is deserving of universal reprobation; it is certain that the corruption of justice by the bribing of jurymen is a detestable crime, and the duty of bringing those implicated in its commission to strict account, and, if found guilty, to the punishment they deserve, is incumbent on all good citizens. It may also be conceded that since bold and unscrupulous villains defy public opinion and outrage law, that sharp and stern punishment ought to be meted out to them. Only thus can the deadened public conscience be aroused to perceive the enormities that from time to time are permitted to pass with feeble, languid and purposeless expostulation. But when all is conceded, an impartial judgment of the New Orleans tragedy will pronounce it both a blunder and a crime. Whatever the provocation to the deed it was simply an impulsive, lawless murder, and in the circumstances an unjustifiable outrage. The conditions in New Orleans are different from those that existed years ago on the western frontiers. Where society is but imperfectly organized it was not unusual for the more law-abiding portion of the community to unite together in inflicting summary justice on notorious offenders, but as soon as proper arrangements for dispensing justice are made, an excuse for the infliction of penalties by individuals in their private capacities no longer exists. It is not permitted to them to defy or override the law.

In the case of the New Orleans mob there is no excuse for such precipitate and sanguinary action. If their case is as plain as they claim, it would have been comparatively easy to arrest the wretched man who bribed the jury, and secured the conviction and punishment of the incriminated jurymen. It surely was not impossible to have secured a new and impartial trial of the men accused of murdering the chief of police. Thus the ends of justice would have been secured with the dignity becoming its proper administration, a terrible crime would have been averted, the active participants in it would have saved themselves from remorseful visitations which will shadow their future, and American civilization would have had one crime less to repent of and deplore.

MRS. ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS WARD is preparing a memoir of her father, the late Prof. Austin Phelps.

DR. SMILES is writing a biography of John Murray, "the most timorous of God's publishers," as Byron affectionately called him. Its title will be "A Publisher and His Friends."

DANGERS OF THE APOSTOLIC AGE, by the Bishop of Manchester, and "Life Story of Our Earth" and "Life Story of Man," the "Science Ladders" series are to be published in the United States.

MR. ALBERT SHAW, late of Minneapolis, who has taken charge of the American edition of the *Review of Reviews*, expects to bring out the first number April 1. It is his purpose to give to the English periodical "the American spirit."

THE Rev. W. Tuckwell, an English clergyman, has in press a popular book on botany, entitled "Tongues in Trees." The scope of the work may be judged from the following titles of chapters: "Tree Myths and Superstitions," "Plant Names of Persons, Places and Seasons," "Tree Worship," "The Botany of Wordsworth and Ruskin."

LEFT TO THEMSELVES: Being the Fortunes of Philip and Gerald is the title of a new story for thoughtful—or other—young people, by E. Irenaeus Stevenson, of the *New York Independent*, just issued by Hunt & Eaton, of 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, and also by Cranston & Stowe, of Cincinnati. It especially appeals to boys all over the world to develop their pluck and Christian manliness.

AN AMERICAN GIRL IN LONDON. By Sarah Jeanette Duncan. With eighty illustrations by F. H. Townsend. (London: Chatto & Windus; Toronto: Williamson & Co.)—The writings of Garth Grafton are favourably known to many Canadian readers, most of whom know that the gifted authoress is herself a Canadian. Her sketches are graphic, racy and original. This, her latest contribution to current literature, will be read with pleasure and zest.

MRS. FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT contributes to the twenty-page Easter number of the *New York Ledger*, issued March 21, a touching sketch entitled "Eight Little Princes," right in the line of her "Little Lord Fauntleroy." Amelia E. Barr starts "A Sister to Esau," a Scotch serial. George Bancroft writes "A Day with Lord Byron." Amy Randolph, Dr. Felix Oswald, Jean Kate Ludlum, Wilson de Meza and Helen M. North are other contributors.

HARPER & BROTHERS will publish March 20 Kobbé's "New York," a handbook for tourists and visitors to the metropolis, similar in style and design to Baedeker's hand-books for European travellers. They will also publish on the same day Charles Dudley Warner's "Our Italy"; a new volume by Mary E. Wilkins, entitled "The New England Nun and Other Stories"; and a volume by Lucy C. Lillie, containing the two stories "Phil and the Baby" and "The False Witness."

THOMAS HOOD's reputation with the general public is undoubtedly only as a joker: and, beyond controversy, he was in act and word, constitutionally, spontaneously, necessarily, always and everywhere, the perpetrator of jests, verbal and practical. But the Right Rev. T. U. Dudley, in an article on "Thomas Hood, Punster, Poet and Preacher," which will appear in the April number of *Harper's Magazine*, claims for him a much higher honour. Hood, he declares, was not so much a punster as a teacher of highest Christian principle, a true poet in deed and verse, and a preacher, not of dogma, not of creed, nor yet of mere morality, but "preacher genuine and true of the living Christ."

THE RELIGIOUS REVIEW OF REVIEWS. A monthly compendium of all the Best Articles in the Home and Foreign Reviews. (London and New York: The International News Co.)—The remarkable success of Mr. Stead's *Review of Reviews* has prompted the issue of this new claimant for popular favour. There is a field of usefulness for it. It gives a clear and condensed view of all that is noteworthy in religious matters throughout the world. It is broad and comprehensive in spirit and scope. The number for March has a wide range of topics and as might be expected prominence is given to the Wesley centennial celebration. Archdeacon Farrar's and Rev. Hugh Price Hughes' contributions appear. This new review also gives a list of all noteworthy books on religious subjects published during the month.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; or, The Great Consummation. By Sir Edwin Arnold, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: 86 Bay Street.)—The "Light of Asia" created a deep impression and was widely read. Opinions differed much concerning it. Many admired it enthusiastically, while others doubted its tendency. The new work by the distinguished poet has been looked for with expectancy, and the result is that not a few have expressed their disappointment. The theme is inexpressibly grand and it would be difficult for the most highly gifted to rise to its altitude. There are many lofty and many fine passages in the work, but it must be confessed there are other portions of the book that are disappointing. It opens with the birth of Christ. In this part of it there comes in the following:—

Peace beginning to be,
Deep as the sleep of the sea
When the stars their faces glass
In its blue tranquility;
Hearts of men upon earth,
From the first to the second birth,
To rest as the wild waters rest
With the colours of Heaven in their breast.

Love, which is sunlight of peace,
Age by age to increase,
Till Anger and Hatred are dead
And Sorrow and Death shall cease:
"Peace on Earth and Good-will!"
Souls that are gentle and still
Hear the first music of this
Far-off infinite Bliss!

Then come the Six Books of which the work is composed. Book first is entitled "Mary Magdalene"; the second "The Magus"; third, "The Alabaster Box"; fourth, "The Parables—At Tyre"; fifth, "The Love of God and Man," and the last, "The Great Consummation." This edition is neatly and carefully printed. There is a good portrait of the author and several finely executed illustrations.