

sheweth His handiwork; day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

As the work advances, the points on which there will be differences of opinion multiply. The account given of the genesis of conscience is clearly open to question. That the fear of punishment plays an important part in the education and strengthening of the moral sense cannot be doubted. We have, however, been accustomed to regard conscience as an original and essential element of human nature, and as that which makes moral training possible.

Again on page 204-5 we find a topic respecting which the course of events is likely soon to force discussion. Has God any proprietary rights which nations as such are bound to respect? Mr. Tait believes in national establishment, that is, that the nation as such should make provision for the maintenance of the public worship of God. We are not about to enter upon this vexed question, respecting which we have very decided opinions. Whatever theory we may hold on the subject of State aid to religion, we must recognize the fact that in the meantime, in large portions of this country, the question has been practically settled in such a way as to throw the burden of the support of the Gospel upon the members of the Church.

The question we shall have to face before long is this: Have nations a right for purely secular purposes to levy a tax on the land and buildings set apart to, and virtually created for, the service of God?

This is not as it is sometimes represented, a mere question as to which pocket the money shall come from. Nor is it even a question as to whether the non-religious portion of the community may lighten its share of civic burdens by increasing those of the religious portion. But rather is the nation in its corporate capacity in any way bound to recognize the existence and sovereignty of God? We answer in the affirmative and believe that one way in which the State performs this duty is by keeping its hands off the property required for strictly religious purposes.

We congratulate Mr. Tait on the kindly notices which his book has already won from the British press, and venture to hope that he may find in his own country a large circle of readers. WM. M.

#### "CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN THEOLOGY."

THIS is the title of an "Annual Theological Review" by the Professors of the Chicago Theological Seminary. The present volume is the second of the series. "Its aim is to furnish an annual digest of theological thought and investigation." It is quite obvious that a work of this kind, if well executed, will be of much value to all who are interested in Theological studies; and in addition to all that is accomplished by our theological quarterlies an important place remains to be filled by such a publication as that before us. It does not attempt to settle the questions at issue between theological schools, but it *takes stock*, as it were, in the several departments of theology, and enables us to see at a glance anything noteworthy that has been done during the year. A work of this kind should not be a mere classified list of publications with remarks on the principal of these; but should attempt to estimate the direction and strength of the theological currents.

Of the present volume one can speak very highly. It is prepared by thoroughly competent men, specially acquainted with the subjects on which they write, in the whole extent of their literature. We do not know of any other quarter to which we could look for so condensed and accurate a view of the theological opinion and parties on the European continent.

The field is surveyed under the following heads: Exegetical Theology, (Old and New Testaments), Historical Theology, Systematic Theology, and Practical Theology—embracing Homiletics and Pastoral Theology. The Latin hook is written with ability and adequate knowledge, but Canadians will feel specially interested in the section on Historical Theology, prepared by Professor Scott, an esteemed minister of our own church in Nova Scotia, previous to his appointment to the chair of Ecclesiastical History in the Chicago Seminary. Of Professor Scott's qualifications to discuss the state of theological opinion in Germany, it is unnecessary to say anything to those who know him, and he has specially prepared himself to write this very interesting sketch.

The spirit of the book is excellent throughout, and we shall gladly learn that many copies of this and subsequent volumes find their way into the hands of our ministers and theological students.—WM. CAVEN.

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE SIDEREAL MESSENGER, conducted by William W. Payne, Carleton College Observatory, (Northfield, Minn.)—The latest results of astronomical researches are ably discussed in this unpretentious magazine devoted to the study of "the sublimest of the sciences."

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The September number of the *Homiletic Monthly* contains a great variety of sermonic outlines contributed by some of the ablest preachers of the day. Ministers will find several of the subjects and their methods of treatment both helpful and suggestive. In addition to these there is a great variety of attractive and stimulating contributions. Dr. Theodore Christlieb writes on the "German Protestant Pulpit of To-day," John Habberton on "Morals in Fiction," and Arthur T. Pierson, D.D., on the "Transforming Power of the Gospel." Dr. Deems discourses this month in the symposium on "Evolution." The reader will find in this number much attractive and useful reading in addition to that now specified.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—In its contents the September *Century* aims to rival the August "Midsummer Holiday number" in entertaining summer reading, as well as in articles of unusual importance. Pictorially, it is also of a popular character. In the frontispiece, Mrs. Mary Hallock Foote has given a refined interpretation of "Pancha," the heroine of a romantic story of Monterey, which Thomas A. Janvier contributes to the number, and the same artist further illustrates the story with two other characteristic drawings. The other short story of the number is a humorous tale of Southern life, called "The Brief Embarrassment of Mr. Iverson Blount," by Richard Malcolm Johnston. Charles G. Leland's "Legends of the Passamaquoddy Indians" (with illustrations drawn on birch bark by a Quadi Indian,) has the interest of fiction as well as a value to students of folk lore. Henry James's two-part story, "A New England Winter," is concluded, and Hjalmar H. Boyesen's longer novelette, "A Problematic Character," is continued. Mr. Cable's novel, "Dr. Sevier," approaches the conclusion, which will be printed in the October number. In the present number will be found a variety of articles on important and timely subjects, by writers of established reputation. Among the poetical contributions will be found one of great excellence by Agnes M. Machar, of Kingston. In Topics of the Time and Open Letters readers will find brief and racy discussions on current events.

#### OBITUARY.

Another of our good old landmarks in Glengarry has been removed by the demise of the late Angus A. McMillan, (known as the deacon), which took place on the 16th of August, it may be stated that Kenyon lost one of its best citizens, and the Session of Kirkhill its most faithful member and active worker. Mr. McMillan was born in Lochiel, in 1806, four years after his parents had emigrated from Lochaber, Scotland, hence he attained the advanced age of seventy-eight years. Although born in Canada his national feeling was stronger, and he was much more attached to the land of his fathers, and knew more of its civil and ecclesiastical history than hundreds born on the old soil. He was well versed in, and admired the language of the Gael. He was the best specimen and representative of a Highland gentleman of the past generation in the Glengarry district. Gifted by a retentive memory, assisted regularly by a supply of newspapers and periodicals, he was well posted in the annals of the past, and interested in the public questions of the present. In politics he was a staunch Reformer. A stranger visiting Glengarry, if in quest of *Celtic Lore*, was sure to be directed to the deacon, and on his arrival cordially received under the hospitable roof. He was, of course, a Presbyterian of the reformed type. In fact it was impossible to make any other "ism" of him. He loved his own church the most because he believed it was the best, yet was not an exclusive; in his heart there was room for all good men. Well informed in the history of the Presbyterian Church, from Knox to Chalmers, and since, he took deep interest in her success, both at home and foreign.

When comparatively young, he at once responded

to the "Disruption Movement" in Lochiel forty years ago, and was after ordained an office bearer in the Free Church congregation there, by the late Rev. Daniel Clark, of Indian Lands. First a deacon, later an elder, faithfully and cheerfully, in proportion to the talents given to him, did he discharge the duties of the office to the very last.

Mr. McMillan was always his minister's right hand man, ready to help and encourage him in the duties and labours of his calling, his services were at his disposal any time they were needed. With fond recollection he used to go over a list of ministers who preached to them at Kirkhill as delegates, and on communion occasions, referring to texts they preached from, and quoting some sharp remarks made. Probationers who preached during vacancy remember how agreeable and congenial they found the old deacon.

His strength remained unabated, and his constitution stood firm until three years ago, when an attack of chronic rheumatism shook it severely, from which he never entirely recovered. His last illness was somewhat lingering, without being painful. He knew his end was approaching, and bore his trouble with Christian patience and resignation to the Lord's will. He was much interested in church matters to the very last. His mental powers continued unclouded. He took part in family worship a few hours before he passed away. His funeral was largely attended by the Lochiel people, and by many from the neighbouring congregations. He left a widow, two sons, and five daughters, in comfortable circumstances, to mourn the loss of a husband and father much respected. It is sad to close the grave over the mortal remains of the faithful, if their vacant seats in the Lord's house must be filled by the less useful.

#### COLLEGE FUND.

The following circular has been recently issued. We trust that it will be loyally responded to by all the congregations and mission stations of the Church:

Sabbath, the 21st September, is the day appointed by the General Assembly for the annual collection on behalf of the College fund.

In 1881 a common fund was instituted for the support of Knox, Queen's and Montreal Colleges.

The amount asked for is \$19,000, to be divided *pro rata*, as follows:

Knox College,	\$10,000
Queen's Theological Faculty,	4,000
Presbyterian College, Montreal,	5,000
	<b>\$19,000</b>

Of this amount only \$12,636 was got last year, thus reducing by fully thirty-three per cent. the amount paid the respective Colleges, thereby causing embarrassment and incurring debt, which is most undesirable.

The Assembly in June last appointed a committee to consider the matter of the common fund, and also that of consolidation of the Theological institutions of the Church,—to report to next Assembly. Meantime it is earnestly hoped that this year every congregation and mission station will loyally and liberally contribute to the fund, so that the full amount asked may be obtained, thereby preventing further financial crippling of any of the Colleges.

An average contribution per communicant of twenty-two cents will suffice. Is there a congregation or even mission station where this average rate cannot be reached if the scheme is fairly presented to the people and the opportunity given them to contribute?

It is earnestly hoped that all our congregations and mission stations will show a due appreciation of the importance to the Church of her Theological institutions by liberally contributing to their efficient maintenance. With large hearted liberality let there be earnest prayer for an outpouring of the Spirit of God on professors and students, that the approaching session in the several Colleges of the Church may be abundantly successful.

Yours faithfully,

ROBT. H. WARDEN,

Montreal, 3rd September, 1884. Agent of the Fund.

A SULPHUR mine in Sicily is reported to have caught fire, and twenty persons perished.

THE Pope has issued an encyclical letter enjoining prayer against the cholera and also for the freedom of the Holy See.

THE Governor of Alsace Lorraine has ordered all French adults either to become naturalised Germans or to quit the country.

OF 2,141 missionaries sent forth into heathen worlds by the Moravian Church, no fewer than 800 have died at their post. One of them, D. Zeisberger, has laboured for sixty-three years with great success amongst the North-American Indians.