

the vacancy took place, and shall communicate the same both to the congregation and the committee of the bounds.

9. When a minister or licentiate accepts a call he shall give notice to the committees appointing him, but shall be required to fulfil the appointments already made, unless relieved either by the committee of the bounds or the congregation or congregations to which he has been designated.

10. Ministers and licentiates shall be required to labour in the vacancies to which they are appointed, conducting public worship on Sabbath and prayer meetings in the course of the week, teaching Bible classes, assisting in Sabbath school work, visiting families and especially the sick; and shall submit to Presbyteries written reports of their labours.

11. Vacant congregations shall report at each stated meeting of Presbytery as to the supply received and the prospects of settlement.

12. Each Presbytery shall present an annual report on the supply of its vacancies to the Synod, and each Synod shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly through the Assembly's Committee on Distribution and Supply. R. J. LAIDLAW.

Hamilton, April 10, 1886.

The following scheme for the supply of vacancies was submitted to the Presbytery of Chatham at its recent meeting:

1. There shall be a committee appointed by the General Assembly to assign licentiates and ordained ministers without charge to Presbyteries for appointment.

2. This committee shall consist of three ministers and three ruling elders.

3. All licentiates and ordained ministers without charge desiring appointment who report themselves to this committee will receive appointments, if possible, one-half of their time and the sessions of vacant congregations shall be at liberty to find supply for their own pulpits for one-half of the time.

4. Vacant congregations shall, through the Presbytery, notify the Assembly's Committee of their need of supply, and may also submit the names of ministers preferred.

5. Vacant congregations shall pay to licentiates and ministers without charge who are duly appointed to supply the pulpit in proportion to the stipend they propose to give their minister and, except with the permission of Presbytery, it shall in no case be less than \$10 per Sabbath in addition to board.

6. When a congregation within its bounds becomes vacant the Presbytery shall appoint a committee of two, one of whom shall be the Moderator of its session, to confer at an early date with the congregation, or with its session and board of management, to make provision for the most efficient conduct of its affairs possible during the vacancy.

7. It shall be the duty of said committee to report to the Presbytery at its first regular meeting after such conference in regard to

(a) The financial condition and management of the congregation;

(b) The provision which has been made, and the remuneration given, for the supply of the pulpit;

(c) The probability of an early settlement.

8. Inasmuch as a prolonged vacancy is highly injurious to the welfare of a congregation, it is an instruction to this committee to use all lawful endeavours to secure a harmonious settlement at as early a date as possible.

9. Inasmuch as it is neither just to candidates nor favourable to an intelligent decision on the part of the members of a congregation that a large number of ministers should be heard before an opportunity for selection is given, it is earnestly recommended that in no case shall more than six candidates be heard in such succession.

10. If at the first or any subsequent regular meeting of the Presbytery it is found that there is no prospect of an early settlement it will be the duty of the committee to continue such conferences with the congregation or its session and board of management unless otherwise ordered by the Presbytery at intervals of three months until the vacancy is filled up.

11. All communications with candidates for vacant charges shall be with the Clerk of Presbytery.

In Victoria, within a short period, four Baptist ministers have become Episcopalians, while two have been received into the Presbyterian Church.

## Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.) No one who regularly receives *Littell* can possibly be an ill informed person.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—Numerous and beautiful illustrations, instructive and amusing reading matter in great variety render *St. Nicholas* one of the most valuable magazines for the home circle.

THE LIBRARY MAGAZINE. (New York: John B. Alden.)—The April number contains a specially good selection of the best papers on themes of current public interest that have appeared in the leading magazines and reviews.

CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The April number of this magazine is in all respects most satisfactory. The contents are varied, interesting and instructive. The illustrations are numerous and of finer quality than formerly. The editor begins very attractively a series of papers on "Landmarks of History."

THE BROOKLYN MAGAZINE. (New York: 7 Murray Street.)—With the number for April the fourth volume of this magazine begins. It has been greatly improved of late. In addition to articles of general interest, its specialty is the publication of sermons by the two most prominent Brooklyn preachers, Henry Ward Beecher and T. DeWitt Talmage.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—The *English Illustrated* continues to supply its readers with excellent material, both literary and artistic. Its descriptive and illustrated papers are interesting, varied and full of information. This month, "A North Country Fishing Town" and "The London Charterhouse" are excellent examples. Fiction and poetry are also well represented.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—In the discussion of topics of immediate practical interest the April number of the *Homiletic* is strong. "Probation after Death," "Prohibition," "The New Theology," "The Efficiency of the Ministry," are among the subjects discussed by thoughtful writers. Dr. Ormiston continues his papers on "Insomnia—its Cause and Cure." The sermonic section is also copious, varied and good. This by no means exhausts the attractive features of an excellent number.

FROM ACCADIA TO MACHPELAH. By the Rev. James Marshall Thompson. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This is a most valuable little book, bringing before the reader in a most interesting form the results of the latest discoveries in Bible lands. It sketches the homes and journeyings of Abraham in a manner so vivid that the reader obtains a full and definite conception of the life and times of the patriarch. It is designed for Sabbath school teachers, pupils and Bible readers generally. It contains a brief introduction by Dr. Howard Crosby.

THE WELSH PULPIT OF TO-DAY. Edited by J. Cynddylan Jones. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—It is a pleasing change to pass from the rapid and sweet sentimentalism that sometimes passes for religious literature to a robust, healthy work like that recently given to the world with an introduction by Cynddylan Jones. The fame of the Welsh pulpit stands deservedly high. The present volume, containing discourses by representative Welsh divines, will be highly valued by all who relish sound evangelical truth, ably presented. The short essay by which the volume is introduced puts forward large claims for the theologians of the Principality which the discourses that follow fully justify.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.) In the April number three new and important serial stories are begun. One, "Their Pilgrimage," is a story of American life and character as seen at summer resorts, written by Charles Dudley Warner, and brilliantly illustrated. "Springhaven" is the title of a new novel by R. D. Blackmore. It is a picture of rural English life in the days of Admiral Nelson. "The Fair Vale of Springhaven," is the frontispiece to the number. There is also the beginning of a new novel by Mrs. Craik, the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," entitled "King Arthur. Not a Love Story." There is also a number of other

very attractive papers on various subjects, profuse, and beautifully illustrated.

SCOTLAND'S INFLUENCE ON CIVILIZATION. By the Rev. Leroy J. Halsey, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—Dr. Halsey has written a very genial and just sketch of Scotland's place in history, her struggles for liberty, religious and civil, the influence she has exerted in literature, philosophy and religion. Canada is also introduced as an illustration of how far Scottish influence extends. Some of our Canadian representative men are mentioned; but, alas for James' fickleness, some of their names are misspelt. If a Scotchman had written this little book some people would have thought he was blinded by prejudice, conceit, or some other Scottish virtue; but Dr. Halsey is a good American, and writes almost as enthusiastically as if he had been a fellow-countryman of Robert Burns.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The *Atlantic Monthly* for April opens with a paper on Gouverneur Morris, by Henry Cabot Lodge. A short story by Sarah Orne Jewett, entitled "The Dulham Ladies," is also a pleasant feature of the number, and with Mr. James's and Miss Murfree's serials furnishes its fiction. Two important papers, one on "Responsible Government under the Constitution," by Woodrow Wilson, the other, "Reformation of Charity," by D. O. Kellogg, will be of interest to thoughtful readers. Julian Hawthorne contributes a paper on the "Problems of the Scarlet Letter," and this, with an article on "Children, Past and Present," by Agnes Repplier, and "Shylock vs. Antonio, A Brief for Plaintiff on Appeal," by Charles Henry Phelps, comprises the chief contents of the number. There is a poem by Mr. Whittier, called "Revelation," and some other verses by Andrew Hedbrook and A. M. Libby; and also criticisms of recent historical and other works. The usual departments close a most agreeable instalment of this standard magazine.

A COMMENTARY ON THE CONFESSION OF FAITH. With Questions for Theological Students and Bible Classes. By the Rev. Archibald Alexander Hodge, D.D. With Appendix. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, Toronto: James Bain & Son.) In 1869 a Commentary on the Westminster Confession, with questions for use by theological students and Bible classes, was published by the Presbyterian Board. The book soon attained a popularity hardly looked for, circulating widely not only in the United States, but also in England, Scotland and Ireland, and being translated into foreign languages as a compact and clear exposition of the system of doctrine held by the Reformed Churches. A new and revised edition of it has now been brought out by the Board, with the addition of two appendices. The first contains the statements of those representative theologians, Charles Hodge and Henry B. Smith, as to the sense in which the historical Presbyterian Church understands those coming into her ministry to accept the "Confession of Faith as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures," in which understanding the two branches of the Presbyterian Church are thus shown to have been perfectly agreed. The second appendix contains the only two official explanations of the sense in which the Westminster Confession is understood by their respective denominations made by representative bodies—that is, the "Auburn Declaration" in 1837 and the "Declarative Act" of the United Presbyterian Synod of Scotland in 1879. This new edition of a standard work will be welcome by the thoughtful men of to-day.

If Paris leads in fashions it does not usually lead in moral and social reform. Attempts have been made several times to found a temperance society in Paris, but without success. The Parisian cannot be induced to give up his wine. Light wines are cheap in Paris, and, what is more and worse—are considered essential luxuries of diet, owing to the bad quality of the water, which is, indeed, undrinkable in some parts of the town. The drinking habits of the people are growing, for within the last few years the consumption of alcoholic liquor per head has been doubled. The latest attempt to start a teetotal society is that made by the Société de la Croix Bleue. A branch of the society was established in Paris a year ago, and, notwithstanding the vigilance of the pioneer reformers, they have only succeeded in captivating about fifty persons.