

Canadian, in whose hands for a time were the destinies of the country. Indeed some had the impression that he was constitutionally somewhat too reserved in his intercourse with those he met in his public capacity. This reserve certainly did not spring from lack of interest or sympathy with the humblest or the highest in the social scale. He was endowed with a broad humanity, as all who knew him can testify, but for all humbug and shallow pretence he had but little patience.

One of the chief characteristics of the departed statesman was his sterling integrity and honesty of purpose. This was not an official veneer, but the strong foundation on which his sturdy manhood was reared. It pervaded his life, public and private, and for years before his death was universally recognized by the Canadian people irrespective of party. In the fierce heat of political warfare aspersions were cast upon his good name, but these were readily repelled, and to the credit of some of his strongest political opponents his unswerving rectitude was freely acknowledged by them. His statesmanship was not of the dazzling and bewildering order. He did nothing for effect. He was distinguished for his foresight and for his caution. Whatever measures of public policy he advocated were all of them in his estimation for the benefit of the people of Canada, without distinction. He could never be brought to favour class legislation. Neither friend nor foe could induce him to swerve from what he believed to be just principles of administration. In these days of shifting political expediency it is something to have had a statesman who was prepared to stand or fall by the principles he professed.

Though he did not parade his religious convictions, Mr. Mackenzie was a devout and earnest Christian. He was a faithful and conscientious member of the Baptist Church, and though attached to his own denomination he was no bigot. He has frequently taken a public part in the promotion of the interests of evangelical Churches, the Presbyterian among the rest, with a cordiality and earnestness characteristic of the man. Considering the limited leisure at his disposal all through his busy life, he had a remarkable fitness for general literature and took especial delight in the perusal of the best works of our English writers.

The end of a long, a useful and an honoured career has come. The death of Alexander Mackenzie is sincerely mourned by the Canadian people, and all who knew him will sympathize deeply with those near and dear to him who are left behind, those who saw in its completeness that beautiful, unselfish life which he lived for seventy years. His will be an honoured place in the history of the Dominion of Canada, and his example will be an incentive to the younger generation to pursue generous, unselfish and noble ends. The memory of the just is blessed.

THE GENUINENESS OF ISAIAH.

MODERN critical methods have to some extent disturbed the confidence of average Christians in the integrity of some of the books of sacred Scripture. The critics of our time are fully entitled to be considered, so they claim, learned experts. They excel in linguistic attainments, a wide range of general scholarship, and several of them possess unquestioned critical insight. The possession of these special qualifications invest the conclusions they reach with a degree of value that cannot be lightly questioned. On questions of an exclusively scholastic nature they can really speak with authority. When they go beyond this and enter the boundless field of conjecture, speculation and theory, the case is different. Great scholars are only human after all. They have their preferences, their prejudices and pet theories from which the most evenly-balanced are not entirely free. However upright and devoted to the pursuit of truth they may be, they are not wholly free from bias, although unconscious of its influence. This fact, were there no others, might serve to impose caution in the acceptance of some of the sweeping conclusions at which they arrive as the result of their prolonged and searching investigations.

There are many people, inexperienced in the niceties of exact scholarship, and who from want of special training and opportunity are not in a position to decide for themselves the questions raised by our own Biblical critics, have no hesitation in assuming that these critics must be right; and those who prefer the good old way are certainly in the wrong. In their estimation the critics are the advanced thinkers, while the orthodox are, from

the nature of the case, hopeless reactionaries. Those ever ready to give acceptance to the new and the startling imagine that the theologians who refuse to receive the new lights of the higher criticism have nothing to say for themselves. This, however, is a mistake. All the sanctified learning of the age is not in one camp. Most of our readers are aware that the new school of critics has arrived at the conclusion that the Prophecy of Isaiah is a composite book. They concede that the first part, ending with the thirty-ninth chapter, is by Isaiah, but from there to the end of the book it is the production of another author or authors, for they have not yet definitely settled the question. The reason assigned for this conjecture is that the latter portion of the book appears to be written during the time of the exile in Babylon, while the former part was written before that event. The mention of the name of Cyrus is held to be conclusive by some that the concluding chapters hitherto attributed to the evangelical prophet cannot be his—as if He who knows the end from the beginning could not have revealed to His inspired servant the name of one who was destined to appear and take a conspicuous part in the accomplishment of His wise and beneficent purposes.

In the last number of the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review* Professor Green, of Princeton, has an able and temperate paper on the genuineness of the second part of Isaiah's prophecy, and any one who reads that paper will be convinced that a strong case can be made against the conjectural conclusions of the higher criticism. In his argument Dr. Green starts out with the proposition that the external evidence is all in favour of the genuineness of this disputed section. It was in existence when the Book of Chronicles was written. He proceeds:—

When the Greek Septuagint version was made, the Book of Isaiah contained precisely what it does now. Isaiah is spoken of by name twenty-one times in the New Testament; and in eleven of these times he is connected with quotations from the chapters now under consideration. This book has been in the custody of the Jewish people or of the Christian Church from the time of its first appearance, and has been guarded by them with the care due to a constituent of the Sacred Canon. And no doubt was ever expressed respecting the genuineness of any part of it until recent times.

After considering the question of authorship the learned professor shows that it is impossible to conclude that an unauthorized addition was made either innocently or fraudulently to the writings of Isaiah without discovery, he proceeds to an analysis of the disputed chapters and shows that from the purpose and design of the contents, as well as the structure of the book, there is nothing incompatible with the generally received opinion of the Jewish people and the Christian Church that the book is the inspired production of the Prophet whose name it bears. The result at which he arrives is stated in the following paragraph:—

We have not aimed to present the subject in all its aspects, nor to adduce all the arguments that can be urged. We have confined our remarks to the chief initial objection, to which all others are subordinate, viz., that these chapters throughout make the impression that they were written in the exile. It has been shown that this is by no means the case; that much which they contain is absolutely at variance with such a view, and that there is no view of the case with which all the parts can be made to harmonize but that which a steadfast tradition, sanctioned by the inspired writers of the New Testament, has assigned to them, viz., that the author of these chapters is no nameless prophet of the exile, is no deutero-Isaiah, but is Isaiah, the son of Amos.

It does seem strange that while all around our Churches and colleges there are large numbers to whom delicate critical questions are utterly meaningless, who are utterly indifferent to the plain moral and spiritual issues that involve life and death, and while there is access to nearly every land for the heralds of the Cross, men can spend precious time and energy in prosecuting lines of study that can lead to no definite or enduring results. The leaders of the new critical methods depend so much on their own subjective impressions that hardly any two of them reach precisely the same conclusion. The field of their investigation is so shadowy and uncertain that definite discovery is scarcely possible. Suppose that the time may come when some intellectual giant of the new critical school will be able to demonstrate that a later and greater Isaiah than the son of Amos really existed, what would be gained? At most a little more definite knowledge concerning the structure of the book might be obtained, but would the character and reliability of the contents be impaired? So long as Christ and His evangelists sanction as they do the utterances of the evangelical prophet, all who value the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever, will look to it as the only authoritative guide to life present and eternal.

Books and Magazines.

THE CREDULITY OF INCREDULITY. By Arthur T. Pierson, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: N. F. Wilson.) The Presbyterian Board of Publication has commenced an issue of "Papers for the People." This admirably and clearly-written pamphlet by Dr. Pierson forms an excellent introduction. If those that are to follow keep up to this, the key-note of the series, they will be most useful and attractive.

THE PULPIT: A Magazine of Sermons. (Buffalo, N.Y.: Edwin Rose.) The *Pulpit* occupies a unique position in current literature. There never was a time when good preachers were in such demand, and the interchange of sermonic thought is calculated to improve the general tenor of pulpit utterances. The April issue contains twelve complete sermons by such well known preachers as Bishop Cox, Mark Guy Pearse, John McNeill, Thomas Dixon, Dr. C. L. Thompson, Professor Davidson, the late Canon Liddon and others. The magazine is true to its title and purpose, which is a great recommendation.

THE METHODIST MAGAZINE. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The new number of this attractive magazine continues the interesting sketch, by W. S. Caine, M.P., of "India, its Temples, its Palaces and its People." Dr. Withrow furnishes an excellent descriptive article, copiously illustrated, "San Francisco and Southern California." Another paper of general interest is on "The Columbian Exhibition, Chicago." There is also a paper by the late Dr. Stafford on "John Greenleaf Whittier," and one by Frances E. Willard on "The W. C. T. U. and its Work." The other contents, varied in character, make up an excellent number.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—The last time that the British forces in India had to contend with the Afghans brought into prominence a man of rare personal qualities and great capacity for military affairs. The short campaign made the fame of General Roberts, and Archibald Forbes tells his story in brief in the current number of the *English Illustrated*. Rose Kingsley writes a good descriptive paper on "A Hampshire Moor." A paper of general interest and illustrated with excellent portraits is devoted to "Some Singers of the Day." Other descriptive papers of the number are "Cocoa," "A Look Round Swindon Works," and "Dorothy Jordan." A new serial, "A Deplorable Affair," is begun, and a stirring story, "A Middy Hero," will attract readers.

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE: A Lecture before the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Massachusetts. By H. L. Hastings, editor of the *Christian*. Third million. (Boston: H. L. Hastings.)—The friends and the enemies of truth attach great importance to the power of the press. Infidelity maintains its propaganda by means of the printed page. Christianity can meet its opponents with strong and conclusive arguments, and its friends are not slow to avail themselves of the press to bring these to the notice of thousands who cannot easily be reached in any other way. This is the initial number of an international monthly series under the general title of the Anti-Infidel Library. The lecture by Mr. Hastings is clear and forcible and popular in style. An evidence of the interest in the question discussed is found in the fact that the copy lying before us bears on the title page that it is the "third million."

RICH AND POOR. By the Bishop of Liverpool. (New York: Thomas Whittaker.)—The marvellous influence of the press has not in our generation been more strikingly illustrated than in the wide circulation of those attractive little booklets of which Professor Drummond's famous addresses were the forerunners. Nothing more stimulating to faith and good works has caught the public taste in our times than these bright and impressive appeals to better life and living, these dainty messengers of love and mercy. Every week adds to their number. We have just received two such recent publications that touch subjects of first importance. Dr. Langford's treatment of "Christian Beneficence" is wise, able and conclusive. Every Christian in the land ought to read it. Bishop Kyle's graphic treatment of Dives and Lazarus in his "Rich and Poor" is especially called for now when there is intense haste to be rich and cries of want arise on every side.

THE ARENA. (Boston: Arena Publishing Co.)—The April *Arena* is rich in able, thoughtful papers. Its table of contents is as varied as it is inviting, as will be noted from the following: "Vital Statistics of the Negro," by Frederick L. Hoffman; "The Money Question," by Hon. John Davis, M.C.; "Volapuk, the World Language," by Alfred Post; "The Speaker in England and America," by Henry George, Jr.; "Rational Views of Heaven and Hell," by Rev. George St. Clair; "The Farmers' Alliance and its Leaders," by Annie L. Diggs (illustrated by two full-page portraits and four smaller photogravures); "Pontifex Maximus," by W. D. McCrackan; "A Remarkable Psychical Experience," by Louise C. Moulton; "How Uncle Nottoway Squashed the Indictment," a southern character sketch, by Will Allen Dromgoole; Part IV. of "A Spoil of Office," by Hamlin Garland; "Two Hours in the Social Cellar," by B. O. Flower; "Books of the Day;" Reviews by Rabbi Solomon Schindler, Henry Austin and the editor.

THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW. (Philadelphia: MacCalla & Co.)—The cause of evangelical Christianity has had devoted champions as well as resolute antagonists in the Netherlands. The first paper in the new number of this splendid theological quarterly is the translation by Professor Vos of an elaborate paper on "Recent Dogmatic Thought in the Netherlands," by Professor Bavinck, of Kampen. It is exceedingly interesting and suggestive. Perhaps there are people who imagine that the advance guard of the Higher Critics has demonstrated that the Book of Isaiah is the product of two separate writers, who lived at different periods. If such be their impression it would be well for them as well as others to read what can be said on "The Genuineness of Isaiah VI.-LXVI.," by Professor Green, of Princeton. Other important papers in the present issue of the *Review* are "Apostolic Origin or Sanction the Ultimate Test of Canonicity," "Christopher Columbus," "Deaconesses as Trustees," and "Willful Desertion a Ground of Divorce." The conspectus of whatever is important in the leading departments of theological, philosophical and general literature is by no means the least valuable section in this indispensable quarterly. It is with pleasure we note that Professor Robert Y. Thomson, of Knox College, is a contributor to the present number, and announcement is made that a paper on "The Testimony of Christ to the Old Testament," by Principal Caven, will appear in the next.