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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Editor.

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The most notable magazine article of the current month is the discussion of "Republican Policy and the Catholic Church in France," in the National Review, from the pen of the late premier himself, M. Combes. The Living Age for April 1 reprints it entire.

An Eclipse of the Sun will take place on August 30, 1905, which will be visible as a total eclipse along a narrow belt extending from a point south of James Bay in Canada, across Labrador, the Atlantic ocean, through Spain, and thence easterly to Arabia, where it will vanish.

The Mikado's living expenses foot up about \$3,000,000 annually, which sum he draws from the National Treasury. His personal fortune is not called upon to contribute for the purposes named, so that the \$3,000,000 may be regarded as his salary as manager of Japan. Out of this he pays several thousand employees. In private he lives quite simply, except at dinner, which is always served in elaborate fashion—generally about twenty courses. Official entertainments given by His Majesty are vastly expensive.

In a recent lecture Booker T. Washington said that one-twenty-sixth of the soil of Virginia is owned by negroes, according to the official records. The negro race has developed more rapidly in the thirty years of its freedom than the Latin race has in 1,000 years of freedom. About 65 per cent of Italians, 85 per cent of Spaniards, 70 per cent of Russians and 80 per cent of South Americans are illiterate, but after thirty years of freedom only 54 per cent of the negro population is illiterate. "In Georgia," Mr. Washington said, "\$16,700,000 is the taxable value of the negroes' property. Probably the colored man has learned the lesson of hiding its real value from his white brother; the figures ought to be over \$30,000,000."

## WHAT CAN BE CROWDED OUT.

A writer in the Chicago Interior points out that a man or woman can be fairly judged by the things that are crowded out of his or her life. When the crowding commences, the choice begins, consciously or unconsciously. A woman who was lately asked, "What are the essentials of life, in your opinion," replied promptly, "Beauty and good clothes." Holding that opinion, she was perfectly consistent in denying any large space in her life to reading, travel, family cares, religion or friendship. But she had a great many pretty clothes, for that was her choice. "I never have time to keep up my music," complained a young matron of undoubted musical talent. It was quite true, alas! But then it was because she played bridge one morning and two afternoons a week. The thing that seems essential and necessary to any individual is never the thing he lets get crowded out. We may believe that we lay this or that down reluctantly and inevitably, but the fact remains that we are holding on, at the same time, to something we consider more essential—or it would be dropped instead. No friend necessary to our hearts, no book necessary to our souls, is ever dropped. No one who loves the Bible ever yet failed to find the time to read it, though thousands make that lame excuse. It is because of limits and choices that the simple life is wise. With unlimited time and unlimited means, complexity could not hurt us, but would only occupy our energies pleasantly. But for most of us, complexity spells frittering. We try to do forty things where we have strength and time to do about four thoroughly. The result, sooner or later, is disappointing. It would be wiser, surely, to do the four well, and then use what extra time we may have toward the rest. In this case, we will naturally choose four really necessary things, and get rid of thirty-six more or less unnecessary ones—which will teach us a great deal in itself. And when we accept our limits as guides, not enemies, we are on the way to a rounded life, though it may be not as large as our dreams.

The Bibelot, for April, is sure to be interesting, since it contains four sections from the prose and poetry of George Elliott. This quaint magazine is published by Thomas B. Mosher, at 45 Exchange St., Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Current numbers 5 cents.

Next in the series of sprightly travel articles which Frank T. Bullen is contributing to Cornhill, comes "Kingston, Jamaica." The charm of the trip is so alluringly reproduced that one can only applaud the sagacity of the steamship line which invited Mr. Bullen to be its guest. Canadian readers who dare to trifle with such temptation will find the article in The Living Age for March 25.

## CONVOCATION AT QUEEN'S. Great Day for the Old University.

The fifty-first convocation was notable in many ways. The presence of Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada; Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for the Dominion in London, and Rev. A. C. Kirkpatrick, M.A., LL.D., Master of Selwyn college, Cambridge, upon all of whom the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred. Besides, this was the first convocation in the spacious Grant Memorial Hall, the magnificent proportions of which called forth words of praise from the Governor-General and others. Chancellor Sir Sandford Fleming presided with his usual skill and ability, and in the course of a happy address recalled the part played by the father of the Governor-General in the passage of the Reform Bill in 1832. He told of the trip through the Canadian west in the early days before Winnipeg had an existence, and the few inhabitants west of Lake Huron were mostly Indians; how in the company of Rev. G. M. Grant, five years before he became Principal of Queen's, he explored the country and was able as a result of the trip to reveal to the Canadian people the great extent and wealth of their land. On that trip they were the recipients of favours from the Hudson's Bay posts, and especially from the company's Governor, now Lord Strathcona.

Then followed the presentation of prizes in medicine and surgery, the laureating of the thirty-nine successful medicals, the conferring of degrees and the presentation of the convocation of Mr. James Macdonnell, B.A., the Rhodes scholar from Queen's, 1905. Mr. J. T. Ferguson, B.A., M.D., was awarded the G. M. Grant prize for the highest moral excellence, an honor voted by the graduating class an hour before convocation to the man who, in the late Principal's words, "can be depended upon always to do the right thing." Nine men received votes, but Mr. Ferguson had decidedly the largest number. He is a graduate in arts, medicine and divinity, and has consecrated his life to the Christian ministry in the foreign field.

Rev. Principal Gordon then in fitting terms presented His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, to the Chancellor as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Laws. After referring to the numerous claims their distinguished guest had for such recognition, he said: "He comes to us Canadians as the representative of His Majesty the King. As such we give him our most cordial welcome—(applause)—and I think we can venture to assure His Excellency that, while all Canadian hearts are loyal to their Sovereign, he will nowhere find intenser loyalty than among the sons of Queen's."

His Excellency, in the speech which he made, after the reception of the degree, referred to the fact that of the 900 students in the university about half were