

These found no tangible shape for some time until 1843, when the bi-centenary of the Westminster Assembly was held in Edinburgh. A speaker to whom a special subject had been assigned failed to appear, and Professor Balmer was requested to take his place. The impromptu speech delivered on that occasion was the germ from which the Alliance derived its vitality. John Henderson of Park, and his pastor, the Rev. David King, D.D., LL.D., devoted their wealth and their energies respectively till in 1846 the Evangelical Alliance was organized in London. The successive meetings were then referred to, especially the one at Berlin, where William IV. of Prussia took much interest in the proceedings, and bestowed great attention on the delegates. At that meeting also, according to the London *Times'* correspondent's report of the proceedings, Principal Cairns, who was appointed to deliver the address of welcome, agreeably surprised the Berliners by the classic character and fluency of his German. At another meeting in Glasgow the eloquent Dr. Krummacher was one of the bright particular stars of the gathering. Speaking of the work done by the Alliance Dr. Castle referred to the papers read by many of the most distinguished divines in Christendom at those great gatherings. Those on this Continent who were privileged to attend the meetings in New York will not soon forget the impressions made by Professor Christlieb, of Bonn, and Narayan Sheshadri. The successes achieved by the Alliance in behalf of civil liberty and religious toleration were mentioned, and he closed with an eloquent plea for union among all believers.

The next speaker was the Rev. Dr. Potts, who, while in full sympathy with the objects and spirit of the Alliance, in a few clear and crisp remarks, showed that the existence of separate denominations provided for unity, which was a higher thing than mere uniformity. These remarks were followed by an eloquent plea in behalf of Christian Missions. Mayor Howland was the next speaker. He delivered an earnest, practical address on how to reach the non-church-going masses in large cities. From the tone of his remarks it was easy to see that he had fully grasped the importance of this question which is so closely related to the duty of the Churches, and obligation resting on individual Christians. As a whole the meeting was excellent. The speaking was not too extended, and it was to the point. The meeting was well fitted to exert a good influence, tending to deepen the interest, and extend the truly catholic object for which the Evangelical Alliance exists, and which during recent years it has done so much to promote.

A CIVIC TRIUMPH.

IT is sometimes asserted, not without reason, that people do not take the interest in public affairs which as good citizens they ought. General indifference to the public welfare is an unquestioned evil. If there is an absence of public spiritedness on the part of the community, serious calamities invariably follow. Men lacking the necessary qualifications are for party or corporate ends, invested with office for the express purpose of furthering those designs, when expensive, unsatisfactory and inefficient government is the result. It cannot be said that of late throughout Ontario there has been any lack of interest in solving the question, Who should govern the Province? Nor in the late contest for municipal office in this city can those entrusted with the franchise be accused of indifference. The highest position in the civic government was a prize for which there was a keen and spirited contest. Excitement ran high, and, as the time was short, electioneering activity was carried to its utmost. Heated as was the feeling, with but few exceptions, the contest was conducted on both sides without those degrading and bitter personalities that unhappily so disfigure political contests, and leave behind rankling memories.

Mr. Howland and his competitor, Mr. Blain, both stand high in popular estimation. The former, from his endeavours to promote the cause of religion and philanthropy, has received a large amount of public confidence, which his year's occupancy of the Mayor's chair has in no degree diminished. The latter has been known and respected as a business man of large experience and enterprise, and was for a time the trusted representative of a large constituency in the Dominion Parliament. The election, however, was not decided on the question of personality. It

was mainly on other grounds that the contest was waged. Many who deposited their ballots for Mr. Howland might under other circumstances have tendered them for his antagonist. Some of them are of opinion that though the Mayor is a man of decided opinions, having the courage of his convictions, but at times a little too impulsive, and not careful on every occasion to weigh his public utterances, he is one that is honest and straightforward. He is not given to intrigue, and therefore he can be trusted to perform in an upright manner the duties imposed by his office.

It was generally felt that the real conflict was to decide what interest should rule the city. Was it to be the saloon or the law-abiding and orderly element in the community? No one supposes that Mr. Blain personally desired anything else than the ascendancy of law and order, but it was understood that at his back the liquor interest stood solid. In the brief campaign that preceded the election this point was emphasized by most of those who publicly supported Mr. Howland. At the regular temperance meetings held on Sabbath afternoons this was again and again asserted. At these meetings regular stumping speeches were delivered—a feature that hardly met with unqualified commendation, for if one side holds election meetings on that day the other will in turn be sure to follow suit. Even in the heat of election times it is a great blessing to have the hallowed calm of the Sabbath intervene, free from the din of political strife.

Another factor in the conflict was the general attitude assumed by the ministry and churches of various denominations. Many of the former spoke strongly for Mr. Howland, and many of the latter were most active in promoting his return. In the larger American cities where women possess the franchise it is asserted that they do not generally exercise their right to vote, but this cannot be said of the women of Toronto. Last year in the mayoralty contest no fewer than 680 recorded their votes, while this year the number of women voters reached 1,041. This is an unmistakable indication that they are taking a deep interest in what specially pertains to the well-being of the home and the community. Increased interest was also taken in the candidates for aldermanic honours, and in those to whom is entrusted the management of the city's educational affairs. Men of high character and special fitness have been elected to the Council and to the Board of School Trustees, and a more faithful exercise of public trust may be confidently looked for. There is a general belief that the good name Toronto has acquired will be honourably maintained, and that our civic rulers, as a body, will be a terror to evil-doers and a praise to them that do well.

Books and Magazines.

THE CANADA METHODIST MAGAZINE. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The first number of the twenty-fifth volume of this excellent Canadian magazine promises well. By arrangement Lady Brassey's latest work, with copious illustrations, is begun. The editor has a paper on "Our Own Country," and Dr. T. Bowman Stephenson has a contribution entitled "At the Antipodes." The contents as a whole are varied and attractive.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—In the January number the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," begins a series of interesting papers, descriptive of travels in Ireland. The paper is embellished with fine illustrations by F. Noel Paton. The other papers of note, both with excellent engravings, are "The Daughters of George the Third" and "Undine." The serials, "Jacquetta" and "A Secret Inheritance," are continued.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The artistic effect of the New Year's number of the *Century* is strikingly heightened by a large and beautiful bronzed medallion of Abraham Lincoln, the story of whose life continues to be interestingly told by John G. Nicolay and John Hay, his former secretaries. A striking portrait of George Bancroft appears as frontispiece. The paper on "French Sculptors" affords scope for some splendid illustrations. For variety of interesting papers, excellent serials, and the able treatment of timely subjects and superb illustrations, the January issue of the *Century* cannot be surpassed.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

The following, abridged from *Queen's College Journal*, will be read with pleasure by all who take an interest in missions:

During the past few years the work of the association in the destitute parts of our own land has been greatly extended; and last year it was suggested that in addition to Home Mission work the association should undertake to send one of its number to represent the students and alumni of Queen's in the foreign field. Previous to this, comparatively little interest in Foreign Missions had existed among the students.

Saturday, December 4, was set apart as a day for the discussion of the association's Foreign Mission scheme. At ten o'clock in the morning a large number of the members assembled. After praise, and prayer for guidance, Mr. James F. Smith, the president, opened the discussion by a short address, in which he urged the claims of Christ and perishing humanity upon individual Christians, and then stated that for years he had earnestly desired to go out as a missionary to China, that he had counted well the cost, and now solemnly offered himself to this association, should they see fit to accept him as their foreign missionary.

Gladly and heartily did the boys respond to the offer of their fellow-student. With subdued enthusiasm, and calm, business-like manner, the proposal was discussed from every point of view. All agreed that the undertaking was a large one, laying heavy responsibility upon each member of the association; but all felt, we dare not go back, there can be only one watchword for us now—forward. By the unanimous voice of the meeting the following resolution was adopted. "Recognizing (1) the claim of Foreign Missions upon the Church of Christ, by reason of our Lord's command to preach the Gospel to every creature: (2) The greatness of the need at this present time—hundreds of millions of our fellow-beings without the smallest ray of Gospel light (3) The greatness of the opportunities at this present time for missionary enterprise—almost every heathen nation and tribe on the face of the earth is open to the missionary: (4) The fact that some of our students are longing to serve Christ in the foreign field, but are prevented from doing so by lack of funds in the Foreign Mission Treasury of the Church: Resolved, that we as an association undertake to send and support an additional missionary to the foreign field. That Mr. James F. Smith, who has offered himself to the Lord and to this association for work in the foreign field, be appointed the first foreign missionary of Queen's University Missionary Association. That in presenting Mr. Smith to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, we, as an association, do pledge ourselves to be responsible for his support, and do ask the committee to send Mr. Smith in company with Mr. Goforth, from Knox College, to labour in China, the field of their choice. That we ascertain at once how much we, as students of Queen's University, can give toward this object for the year 1887, and that our subscriptions be paid to the treasurer as soon as possible, and be placed by him in the bank to the credit of this association. That, having ascertained the amount that can be raised among the students, we do appeal to all former members of this association, and to other graduates and friends of the university, asking them to state what they are willing to contribute annually for the support of Mr. Smith in China. That all subscribers be asked to remit their subscriptions to the treasurer of this association on or before the 1st day of April in each year, beginning with the year 1887. That we, as members of Queen's University Missionary Association, will not fail to present its claims in both its home and foreign work to congregations and mission stations, and in this way do all in our power to increase the revenue of the association."

The most interesting feature of this Scheme to those who watch with joy the development of Christ's kingdom in our own day is the fact that it springs spontaneously from the college life of to-day. It gives the outside world a glimpse of the thoughts and purposes that fill the minds and sway the lives of the young men assembled in our college halls. Additional evidence of the spirit that permeates the colleges to-day is given in the fact that a similar scheme has originated among the students in Knox College.