

in some cases for the attenuated discourses to which hearers have sometimes to listen.

Intelligent young men may not know when a sermon violates the principles of homiletics, but they are acute enough to discern when it is loosely prepared. A padded discourse satisfies no mortal, and imparts benefit to few hearers. Happily, this evil is not without remedy. For a successful and beneficent ministry conscientious study is indispensable, and this is impossible if a minister's precious hours are frittered away by frivolous demands upon him. Let people be more reasonable in their requirements in this respect, and let ministers exercise more discretion and firmness and the evil will to a great extent disappear.

THE CENTRAL INDIA MISSION.

THE published report of the work done by our missionaries in Central India has recently reached us, from which the following extracts, the first from Rev. J. Wilkie's and the second from Rev. J. Builder's reports, are taken:

"During the past year the opposition to our work, of which in former years we have had to complain, continued more or less. In the month of July, in consequence of the unfair hindrances that were put in our way in the Cantonment, as well as in the city, and, especially, as the Rev. J. Fordyce, of Simla, who has very faithfully and persistently been working for us, and others, were urging me to go there, it was thought well that I should do so. Through the kind assistance of Rev. Mr. Fordyce I was able to see H. E. the Viceroy (Lord Ripon) and other leading officials, and in the Union Chapel Rev. Mr. Fordyce also kindly arranged a public meeting to enable me more fully to make known the facts of the case.

"This visit was followed by our memorial to the Viceroy of July 21. The results were very substantial advantages in the Cantonment, and we hope some also in the city; though Lord Ripon, in his reply, enounced the opposition on the part of the Durbar, only emphasized the position the Durbar has always taken, viz. that the subjects are entirely under H. H. Holkar's control, and therefore we can only speak to them with his consent. Several changes took place very shortly after the receipt of this memorial, which, we believe, have very materially helped us and made our position in the city better than ever before. Lord Dufferin and Sir Lepel Griffin took the places respectively of Lord Ripon and Col. Bannerman, and Sir Lepel since his return has expressed a desire to help us and do justice as far as lies in his power. Most of those, too, in the Durbar, who were most bitter in their opposition, have lost much of their former influence or have been removed elsewhere. Street preaching we do not deem empty, but all other kinds of work go on with but comparatively little hindrance.

"All my work has been much as in former years. Preaching, as can be seen from the reports of the workers, has been carried on in different places in the Camp, Mohallas of the City, Station, and villages far and near; and at the regular services in the church there have always been some non-Christians present.

"My medical work, from the press of other work, not so much undertaken as patients wish, has been carried on as opportunity was given, both at the dispensary and in the villages that I have visited. I have failed as yet to get any one to be a helper in this work, and so, being alone both in the prescribing and dispensing, I have kept no record of the number of patients. For want of time I have also been obliged latterly to almost entirely close my dispensary. I hope soon to be able to again undertake and perhaps extend this important branch of the work. Miss Beatty after her arrival very kindly assisted me in the dispensary work, until her own rapidly increasing work amongst the women interfered."

In his report the Rev. Joseph Builder speaks hopefully of his work and prospects:

"In reviewing the work of the past year for the purpose of estimating its progress there is a feeling of disappointment at the actual results, though this is greatly relieved by the many hopeful signs that have been observed. Some slight opposition on two occasions has been experienced from Brahmin officials, but this has, by no means, been the usual reception accorded to the preaching of the Word in the villages round about. Wherever the workers have gone they have been, as a rule, kindly received and in many cases have been invited to come again and explain further the things concerning Christ. Several

have come as inquirers, some seeking the loaves and the fishes, others for the purpose of disputation, usually asking the question, "What is religion and what is not religion?" and still others more or less sincere who shrink, principally on account of family ties, from the open confession of Christ. Concerning this last class Mr. Middleton, in his report, writes: "There are in Mhow many Hindoos and Mohammedans who are willing to be secretly baptized." He even ventures to say that there are one hundred of such persons. However this may be, such willingness on the part of even some, though unsatisfactory, is an indication of struggling towards the Light, and we can only hope that their groping may issue in their finding Him who is not far from every one of us.

"In connection with this school-work the outlook is also hopeful, but we are very much in need of efficient teachers. In two villages the Patels, or headmen, give houses free of rent for school purposes, and other places are willing to receive us as kindly. Had we only a sufficient number of competent Christian teachers we could very largely control the education of the youth in the villages at least. Public opinion is also growing in favour of female education. A short time ago the people in a village about one mile from Mhow asked that a girls' school might be opened, and we hope to comply with their request this month."

Books and Magazines.

MIND IN NATURE. (Chicago: Cosmic Publishing Company.)—The May number of this new serial is the third issued, in which a variety of interesting topics is discussed by able writers who are thoroughly conversant with their respective subjects.

OUR good neighbour the *Evangelical Churchman* takes the opportunity in beginning a new volume to make decided improvements in its general appearance. New and appropriate headings embellish last week's issue. We cordially extend congratulations and good wishes for our contemporary's success.

WE have received two vigorous pamphlets written with a view to persuade the friends of Victoria College to have nothing to do with the proposed University Federation Scheme. One is by the Rev. Dr. Sutherland, the authorship of the other is conjectural, being anonymous. Both are written with great ability.

SCHOOL OF EXPRESSION.—The first annual catalogue of this endeavour on a great and comprehensive scale to cultivate a complete system of instruction in the important art of expression has been received. It is the intention to endow this school so as to secure its thorough efficiency. It is under the charge of S. S. Curry, Ph.D., Professor of Oratory in Boston University.

AMONG THE LAURENTIANS. A Camping Story. By Sydney C. Kendall. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—As the sub-title of the little book implies, this is a story of camping life. Its appearance is opportune, written in a racy and pleasing style. It is just such a book as will add zest and enjoyment to the not unwelcome monotony of summer camping, remote from the toil and bustle of ordinary life.

NOTES ON THE LESSONS OF 1885. Prepared by Professor Ezra P. Gould, A.M. (Boston: Howard Gunnett.)—Had this useful volume reached us sooner it would have received an earlier notice. It is specially designed for Sabbath school teachers and senior scholars, to whom it presents concisely and in compact form a comprehensive and intelligible view of the Lessons adopted in the International Series for the current year.

MONTREAL NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HE Rev. E. F. Seylaz has accepted the call from St. Hyacinthe, and the Presbytery has appointed Tuesday, the 2nd of June, for his induction, the Rev. Professor Scrimger to preside and address the people, Rev. R. P. Duclos to preach and Rev. J. Patterson to address the minister. Mr. Seylaz enters upon his work in this field with encouraging prospects of success. St. Hyacinthe is a good manufacturing centre, and there is a probability of its making rapid progress in the near future. The French Protestants are among the most respectable of the community, and there is also a good nucleus of English-speaking Presbyterians.

MR. M. L. LEITCH, one of the graduating class of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, this spring, was duly licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Glengarry, on Wednesday last. Mr. Leitch is to settle in Valleyfield, the congregation there being about to extend to him a unanimous call. Though considerably weakened in numbers they have resolved to offer a salary of \$800 per annum, and an effort is soon to be made to raise sufficient money to erect a manse on the church property. The church building erected two or three years ago is one of the finest in the Province of Quebec outside the cities of Montreal and Quebec.

At the meeting of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa in St. John's Church, Cornwall, on Tuesday last, the Rev. Dr. MacNish was unanimously elected Moderator. In addition to the consideration of reports from the Committees on Temperance, Sabbath Schools, State of Religion, and Protestant Education in the Province of Quebec, there was an interesting discussion on the work of French evangelization. Messrs. Armstrong, Heine, Dewey, and Ferguson spoke encouragingly of the work in their respective Presbyteries of Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec and Glengarry; and addresses were given by Principal MacVicar, Messrs. McCaul, Campbell, and Warden. The Synod unanimously adopted a resolution expressive of their confidence in the Board, and their determination to aid it in the prosecution of the work. Some of the speakers referred to the necessity of ministers throughout the whole Church from time to time pointing out to their people the errors of Romanism, as there seemed to be a tendency in some quarters to quietly ignore them in their teaching. After a brief discussion it was agreed to transmit to the General Assembly overtures from the Presbyteries of Ottawa and Brockville, asking that steps be taken to have a summer session in some of the Theological Seminaries of the Church. It was also agreed to transmit, with the approval of the Synod, an overture from the Presbytery of Brockville asking the Assembly to take such action, in unison with other Protestant denominations, as will strengthen weak congregations in districts where there are several struggling churches assisted by Mission Funds, and only room for one self-supporting charge. A resolution was heartily adopted in favour of the effort about to be made by the Presbyterian College, Montreal, to secure additional endowment and the scheme commended to the members of the Church throughout the Synod. It was pointed out that altogether apart from any increase to the present staff of Professors, an additional sum of \$50,000 is required to meet the present requirements of the College. Two years hence special subscriptions promised for a term of years expire, and the amount derived from the Union College Fund is annually growing smaller. For the year just closed the expenditure in the ordinary fund of the College exceeded the revenue by nearly \$1,500. There is urgent need, therefore, for additional endowment, and now that the effort on behalf of Knox College is nearing completion, it is hoped there will be a generous response to the appeal of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. The next meeting of the Synod is to take place in St. Andrew's Church, Perth, on the third Tuesday of April, 1886, at 8 p.m. The warm-hearted, generous hospitality of the friends in Cornwall will not soon be forgotten by those present at the meeting of Synod just closed. Dr. MacNish proved himself well qualified for the position of Moderator; and the address on Wednesday evening of the Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, from India, made a deep impression on those who heard it.

THE choir of the Crescent Street Church, Montreal, recently gave a concert and donated the proceeds to the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools. The lecture-hall of the church was well filled and the entertainment quite a success.

PRINCIPAL GRANT preached last Sabbath in St. Paul's Church; Prof. Ross, of Queen's, in Emmanuel Church, and Rev. M. C. Cameron, of Milton, in St. Joseph Street Church.

MR. C. B. ROBINSON, of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, has been here for the past week, and is adding very materially to the number of your readers.

REV. PROF. ROSS, B.D., of Queen's College, Kingston, sails for Europe on June 13. He proposes visiting Switzerland, Belgium and Italy, returning in September. The Rev. M. W. Maclean, M.A., of Belleville, also visits Europe, leaving this week. We trust that he will return quite restored to health.