

MISSION FIELD.

NEW HEBRIDES.

The—"Dayspring" missionary ship which was wrecked in October last on a coral reef near the New Caledonia Islands, will in all probability, have a successor. From the last issue of "Quarterly Jottings from the New Hebrides," we learn that the insurances effected on the vessel amounted to £5,000, and as she originally cost £7,000 there is a dead loss of £2,000. On the wreck being reported, friends of the work came forward with promises amounting to £1,300. It remains with the New Hebrides Mission Synod and the churches immediately responsible to say whether a new vessel shall be procured.

From the New Hebrides Rev. Mr. McKenzie, of Erakor, sends most pleasant intelligence: "I have had much encouragement since you last heard from me, for eighty-nine have renounced heathenism, and now there are less than twelve heathens in my district. Most of those who came in this year belong to a small island, Mell, where in years gone by they were exceedingly hostile. The change which the Gospel has wrought at that village is simply marvelous; on several occasions my life was in danger, but now they seem as if they could not do enough for me. To see those people in their grass school-church, already twice enlarged and still too small, all nicely clothed, so different looking from the days when painted and feathered, and to hear them sing heartily, praising that Name which is above every name, was enough to gladden any missionary's heart, and abundantly reward him for many long years of toil and discouragement. We have now fourteen church members in that island. At Erakor, at the communion in July, we had the finest gathering ever seen here. Our church was crowded and about 100 had to remain outside. We have over 200 church members, nearly all of them took their seats at the Lord's Table, and twenty-one sat down for the first time."—*Missionary Review*.

THE ETHICS OF BUDDHISM.

A careful examination of the Buddhist writings and of the Old Testament shows that every valuable moral precept inculcated by Buddha or his followers was freely taught by Moses and the prophets centuries before Buddha existed; but this is scarcely to be wondered at, considering the light which has been thrown of late on the extent to which nations in earlier days had intercommunication. The ethics of Buddhism were evidently derived from nations with whom the inhabitants of India had commercial and other relations, including the Jewish, which was in its greatest prosperity five hundred years before Buddha was said to have existed; and also later, when the captivity took place, and there arose a tendency toward the dispersal of that people.

From the account of Chandra Das, however, one inference is easily gathered—modern Eastern Buddhism is idolatry. The "Light of Asia" is often made to appear a pretty and innocent philosophy. When the present drawing-room craze for "Esoteric Buddhism" has subsided, perhaps certain scholarly and comfortable people may perceive that Buddhism is, after all, merely a gross and degrading worship of idols. The great temple at Lhasa is a place of gods many and lords many. All the details in the Buddhist Calendar—over 400 in number—are represented, mostly in life-sized proportions. There is a colossal figure of the goddess Palden Thamo. The pope of this strange religion, the Grand Lama, was a child of eight years of age, the supreme embodiment of modern Buddhism. It is a pity our devotees of the now-fangled cult can not be sent to Lhasa and kept there till a course of genuflections before the Grand Lama and a stay among the crowd of gods and goddesses in all their tawdry glory caused them to see their folly, and be cured of their infatuation.—*Missionary Review*.

A missionary writes: "One morning I passed a man lying near the road, and asked him why he was lying there. He opened his eyes wearily and said, 'I am very hungry. I have not tasted rice for more than three days, and I can not walk any further.' 'Poor fellow,' I said, 'I'll bring you some food, and then perhaps you will feel better.' Away I went, and presently returned with a leaf plate full of rice—every grain white and separate as Hindus love to have it. 'Take a little,' I said. The man opened his eyes once more, and looking at the rice, oh, so hungrily, and at me, oh so piteously, he waved his hand feebly and said, 'I daren't, I daren't; my caste, my caste.' 'But,' I replied, 'if you don't eat it, you will lose your life, and what then will be the good of your caste?' 'Sir, come back the answer feebly, 'if I lose my caste what will be the good of my life?' I do not suppose the rice would have saved him."

LOOKS INTO BOOKS.

The *Critical Review* for April, edited by Prof. Salmon, contains as usual careful and scholarly notices of the newest literature in theology and philosophy. This quarter it is philosophy rather than theology which is prominent. Among others there is a notable work by a Canadian author. Prof. Watson, of Kingston, on "Christianity and Idealism." The first place is given to a discriminating critique of the new edition of Pilzeder's *Philosophy of Religion*, by Principal Fairbairn. The staff of reviewers contains many of the foremost scholars in Britain, and the magazine enables one to keep in touch with the progress of theological thought in all its main fields. Edinburgh. T. and T. Clark. Price 1s. 6d.

The *Preacher's Magazine* for May is Memorial Day number, full of good matter, but in most of which, unfortunately for us, we Canadians have little interest. Apart from this, there is a good sermon by Mark Guy Pearse on "Jesus the Carpenter," and good notes on the Sunday school lessons, with outlines of addresses on the golden texts. Wilbur B. Ketcham. 2 Cooper Union, New York. \$1.50 a year.

The *Eclectic Magazine* for May shows a varied number of selections from foreign magazines. A political article—"The New Situation in China"—heads the list. There are several biographical sketches—"Coventry Patmore: A Portrait," "Gibson's Autobiography," and a centennial review on "Sir Claudesley Shovel and his school of heroes. One of the interesting papers is entitled "Some Changes in Social Life during the Queen's Reign." Written in a bright, chatty style, it has all the charm of reminiscence to older readers, and information to younger ones. A better idea of the variety of selection in the number may be obtained by glancing through titles such as "The Mission of Tennyson," "Tiger Shooting in the Decau," "Life in a French Commune," "Some Plantation Memories," "The Irish School of Oratory" and "Pagan Ireland." A valuable number is the "Story of a Philanthropic Pawnshop"—an account of a German venture which has proved a success in all respects.

The June number of *Harper's Magazine* will be distinguished by the first instalment of a new novel by Frank R. Stockton, "The Great Stone of Sardis," dealing in the humorist's most whimsical vein with events in the twentieth century, including a submarine expedition to the North Pole. Among the other features will be the first of two papers on the British Parliament, "The Celebrities of the House of Commons," by T. P. O'Connor, and an instalment of "The Martian," with drawings by Du Maurier, one of which will be given, as it was left, unfinished. The illustrators will include C. D. Gibson, Frederic Remington, and F. H. Lunsford.

ARTICLES YOU SHOULD READ IN MAY MAGAZINES.

"Geological Progress of the Century." By Henry Smith Williams, M. D., in "Harpers."

"Scientific Kite Flying," with Especial Reference to the Hill Experiments." By J. B. Millot, in "Century."

"Experiments with Kites." By Hugh D. Wise, U. S. A., in "Century."

"Photographing from Kites." By William A. Eddy, in "Century."

"Harvard College in the Seventies." By Robert Grant, in "Scribner."

"Henry Drummond." By Ian MacLaren, in the "North American Review."

"The Chancellor of the French Republic"—Gabriel Hanotaux. By Baron Pierre de Coubertin, in "Review of Reviews."

"Hebrew Rock Altars." In the "Biblical World."

"General Grant's White Mountain Ride." By Geo. B. Smith, in "St. Nicholas."

"Edgar Allan Poe." By M. A. De Wolfe Howe, in the "Bookman."

"The Capture, Death, and Burial of J. Wilkes Booth." By Ray Stannard Baker, in "McClure's."

"Some Personal Aspects of the Queens of Europe." By Geo. E. Kenton, in the "National."

"Korean Interviews." By Prof. Edward S. Morse, in "Popular Science Monthly."

"A Sunday in Gibraltar." By the Countess of Meath, in "Sunday Hours."