

gelical Christians in various parts of the Empire, exerting a powerful influence for good. The Gospel is everywhere the true friend of freedom and the uncomprising opponent of lawlessness, whether in regal cabinet or anarchic conclave. The Gospel is what a distracted nation, as well as a restless individual's conscience, requires to bring peace and a promising future. It is not from the throes of revolutionary violence that permanent national prosperity can come. The peace and happiness of a nation are assured when its people accept the principles of that kingdom which cometh not with observation. It is transforming, but not revolutionary in the commonly-accepted sense.

Under the late Czar army regulations were introduced for the instruction of the soldiers. Schools were established in which reading, writing and ordinary elementary branches were taught. The Scriptures were read in these military schools and the result is significant. Many began to think for themselves. They had no difficulty in discovering that serious errors had crept into the doctrines and ritual of the Greek Church. Freedom of thought and worship are much restricted in Russia, and the number of those who dissent from the teaching of the Orthodox Church cannot be approximately ascertained. In the army it is to be expected that such dissenters would be still more guarded in the expression of their religious belief.

A significant illustration of this evangelical movement in the Russian army has recently been given. A retired sergeant, Andreef by name, holds worship in his own house in Kieff every Sabbath. A congregation numbering about fifty, composed of men, woman and children assemble, and good sergeant Andreef reads from the Gospel and expounds it with what ability he can. He seems, from accounts given of his movement, to be a simple, earnest, reverent man, devoid of that arrogance and assumption that leaders of such movements are so often tempted to assume. He and his little congregation accept the Scriptures as the only rule of faith and practice. They reject the rites customary in the Greek Church which they cannot find commanded in Scripture.

They do not cross themselves while praying. They have no holy images and do not pray to saints. They do not recognize marriage nor communion, nor even baptism, as sacraments, but insist upon a public confession as a necessary means for moral purification. They recognize the Czar as the head of civil administration; but they do not admit his authority in religious matters. They earnestly try to comply with the teachings of the Gospel, but admit that, being uneducated men, they can err in interpreting the Book. Therefore they are anxious to hear learned men on the true religion, "as the Apostles taught it in the first century of Christianity."

This little Christian community practise strict temperance principles. They abstain from vodka, and the drink sellers complain to the authorities; but as yet fortunately without any effect in the way of restraining their civil and religious freedom. This ex-sergeant is of opinion that if the law relating to the change of religious profession in Russia were relaxed, many thousands in the Army would avow openly their belief in the Gospel. The existence of this and similar movements, though not bulking largely in public estimation, is nevertheless indicative of a moulding force of the right kind in the present seething social condition of Russia. Much may be hoped from people who desire "the true religion as the Apostles taught in the first century of Christianity."

THE LABOUR QUESTION.

THE capital and labour question is attracting general attention. It is rapidly becoming the burning question of the time. It cannot be solved offhand or disposed of by the utterance of a few general and well-meaning platitudes. The solution will be reached after long and earnest effort, not, it may be, without much suffering and painful sacrifice. The Christian Church cannot be indifferent to a movement so vital as that now in progress. In the Church, as elsewhere, there will be much diversity of opinion; but thoughtful Christian men are considering the subject dispassionately and in the light of Scripture teaching. A writer in the *Lutheran Observer* formulates the following:

1. The Church must treat the various questions of Socialism in the spirit of the Gospel and according to the conditions of life in the present century and generation.
2. The Church must meet Socialism as a living, "burning question" of the day and hour, not in an autocratic, dogmatic, ecclesiastical manner, but in a manner sympathetic, rational and fraternal.

3. The Church has nothing to do with the extreme demands of a certain class of violent men, anarchists, nihilists, and the like, except to utter warning and admonition against their wickedness. The State must enforce law and preserve order against such.

4. The Church must treat with individuals as such, and not with so-called classes, in the consideration of this question, for God is no respecter of persons.

5. The Church must impress upon each and all the fundamental principle of God's Word, as governing the relation of man to man under all circumstances, the Golden Rule.

6. The Church must apply to all alike the Gospel teaching that time, talents, gifts, possessions, etc., are held by each and every one, rich and poor, high and low, *not* in fee simple, but in leasehold, as stewards, the absolute owner alone being God.

7. The Church must seek to abolish all class distinctions within its pale founded upon unscriptural grounds, and maintain the brotherhood of believers, the communion of saints on earth, as men with men; and by its more active benevolent operations, continue to ameliorate their temporal condition.

8. The Church must regain its hold upon the masses, the labouring men and women, the prevalence of ungodly views and practices among them showing how far they have drifted away.

9. The Church must come in closer contact with the hearts of the so-called "moneyed class," so, that being thoroughly converted, they may treat their fellow-men of humbler rank and station as having souls, and not as helpless machines.

10. The Church must reiterate the teaching of St. Paul (1 Cor. xii.) that all men are necessary members of a common body in Church and State; that some natural distinction of gifts and abilities will always remain, but that these should never destroy the common bond of unity in love.

Books and Magazines.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This is a monthly over whose pages the little folks bend with delight.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This indispensable weekly affords its readers the best and most varied presentation of the literature of the day.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—This splendid weekly for young readers steadily maintains the high position to which it has attained.

DOMINION CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE JOURNAL. (Toronto: A. C. Winton.)—This new labourer in the temperance field deserves a cordial welcome. The *Journal* will be published monthly. The first number reflects credit on all concerned in its production.

WORDS AND WEAPONS. Edited by Rev George Pentecost, D.D. (New York: Jos. H. Richards.)—This magazine, specially devoted to the promotion of evangelistic work, conducted by one who has been a wise and successful labourer in this field of practical Christianity, continues its useful career with undivided aim; it contains most varied and profitable reading.

THE THEOLOGICAL AND HOMILETICAL MAGAZINE. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—In the symposium, "Is Salvation Possible after Death?" Dr. Landels has a thoughtful and able paper in the last number of this excellent magazine. The other sections are rich in varied and suggestive sermons, outlines and papers of practical import. This magazine deserves a wide circulation.

KNOX COLLEGE MONTHLY. (Toronto: James Murray & Co.)—This academic monthly shows steady improvement. The closing number of the fourth volume is one of the best yet issued. Important questions are ably discussed in its pages. Thoughtful contributions by Revs. George Burnfield, B.D., R. Y. Thomson, B.D., R. D. Fraser, M.A., G. M. Milligan, M.A., and others appear in the last number for the season.

THE LIBRARY MAGAZINE. (New York: John B. Alden.) This popular magazine which, beginning with the month of May, was transformed from an octavo monthly into a handy, small quarto weekly, has taken other steps in the line of progress. No. 4 of the weekly issue appears in new and larger type, and also with the addition of a handsome cover. In its new appearance it becomes one of the most attractive magazines in the field, while it is beyond rivalry in economy of cost.

CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The May number opens with an illustrated paper descriptive of the scenery on the Erie Railway by the editor. It is followed by the second paper from the same pen on "Landmarks of History." The Rev. W. S. Blackstock contributes an

interesting article, "Among the Esquimo." John Macdonald gives more "Leaves from the Portfolio of a Merchant," and other contributors help to make the present a very excellent number.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The *Homiletic* for May opens with an able paper by Sir William Dawson on "The Present Status of the Darwinian Theory of Evolution." Professor Stuckenberg writes on "Socialism and the Church," and Dr. T. W. Chambers, in the admirable manner peculiarly his own, discusses "Has Modern Criticism Affected Unfavorably any of the Essential Doctrines of Christianity?" The present is a splendid number of this valuable monthly.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—With this month's number this valuable and prosperous magazine enters upon its fourth year, having gained an enviable position for its vigorous orthodoxy, breadth of helpfulness and admirable adaptation to the necessities of pastors and Christian workers in all evangelical denominations. This number is embellished with a fine portrait of Bishop Cyrus D. Foss, D.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and contains an admirable sermon from his pen. A number and variety of contributions by distinguished divines and able writers make up a decidedly excellent number.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The May *Atlantic* opens with a characteristic paper by John Fiske on "Weakness of the United States Government under the Articles of Confederation." W. J. Stillman gives some pungent "Memoirs of London," and Maurice Thompson writes on the "Genesis of Bird-Song." Other papers by noted contributors will be read with pleasure and profit. In fiction the number is unusually strong. In addition to the serials of Henry James and Charles Egbert Craddock, William Henry Bishop begins auspiciously a new work entitled "The Golden Justice." The present issue of the *Atlantic* is fully beyond the high standard maintained by this one of the best literary periodicals of the time.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The frontispiece of a very excellent number is an engraving by Closson from "Faith," a painting by E. Armitage, R.A., one of the illustrations for an article by William H. Ingersoll, entitled "Portraits of our Saviour,"—a beautifully illustrated paper on a subject especially interesting to the Christian reader and to the art-student. The "London Season," a very readable paper, is embellished with characteristic illustrations by Du Maurier, the famous *Punch* artist. The second part of Charles Dudley Warner's "Their Pilgrimage," finely illustrated, appears in the number. "East Angels" reaches its conclusion, and "King Arthur" and "Springhaven" grow in interest. Excellent short stories and poems will be found in this issue, and the various departments are filled with good things.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The place of honour in the May *Century* is assigned to Nathaniel Hawthorne, of whom two portraits are given. "Hawthorne's Philosophy," from the pen of his son, will be read with interest. Special stress is placed on the profusely-illustrated articles, which in their order are an attractive chapter on "American Country Dwellings," by Mrs. Schuyler van Rensselaer; "The Flour Mills of Minneapolis," by Eugene V. Smalley; "A Californian's Gift to Science," meaning the Lick Observatory, by Taliesin Evans; and "The Breeding of Fancy Pigeons," by E. S. Starr, which is quite remarkable, both for the beauty of the engravings and the special knowledge of the writer. The Rev. T. T. Munger writes on "Evolution and the Faith." The historical war papers continue to be intensely interesting, one being the last article prepared by the late General McClellan. Serial fiction, short stories and meritorious poetical contributions, together with departmental productions, constitute a most excellent number.

IN our advertising columns will be found the fourteenth annual report of the Confederation Life Association. As might have been expected from the solid character of the responsible directorate, and the able management of Mr. J. K. Macdonald, this company has had an unusually prosperous career. It has secured public confidence, and it may be assumed that it will continue to deserve it.