

of education? What he said on this part of his subject was eminently judicious and well-timed. The school programme has been for years unnecessarily crowded with a multiplicity of show subjects. What can be gained by a number of accomplishments by which the attention of pupils is distracted and their time wasted, under the vain imagination that they were becoming proficient in all branches of a liberal education? The great mass of the people have to earn their living by daily toil, therefore let them be thoroughly conversant with reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, the laws of health, and sound morality.

A superficial smattering of literary and scientific knowledge is not education, and has not been productive of uniformly good results. How far have erroneous ideas and equally erroneous methods been responsible for the unhealthy rush from the healthy, honest and independent work on the farm, to the overcrowded pursuits of the city, and the delusive attractions of professional life? Just views of the legitimate province of the public school would do much to correct mistaken ideas, and save from many grievous disappointments and life-long mistakes.

The educational system of Ontario, with its comprehensive gradations, does not repress the noblest ambitions of the scholar in the humblest sphere of life. The boy that shows aptitude in the common school, finds the door of the High School and the Collegiate Institute open for his reception. If he shows equal diligence and competency there, he can pass to the University, where he will obtain the education necessary for the highest positions to which he can aspire. Each department has its own special work to do, and the more completely it confines itself to its proper work the better.

If children in the public schools become proficient in the ordinary branches, their minds well disciplined and imbued with a love of knowledge for its own sake its portals stand open for an indefinite advance. Their intellectual pursuits will be a solace after the labours of the day, and will enable them to become worthy citizens, and give an added dignity to life and labour.

Principal Grant was characteristically happy in dissipating the fallacies that have gathered thickly around the subject of education. Some of these will bear special reference. The indiscriminate praise accorded the educational system and methods of Ontario, has been productive of conceit, one of the most difficult barriers to remove out of the way of true progress. If this fallacy were generally entertained the excellent school system of Ontario would soon be surpassed by less self-conscious but more intelligent competitors. The cause of education cannot stand still. Its course must be onward and upward. The Principal also said some true and pungent things on cramming, that excrescence on modern education. Ontario is not the only or, perhaps, the chief sinner in this respect, but there is far too much of it. This is an evil that ought to be condemned without stint until it has finally disappeared. His remarks on the status of the teacher, and the value and dignity of his profession will be appreciated by all true friends of education.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION STEAMER.

In addition to contributions already acknowledged for the new Hebrides Mission Steamer, the following has since been received.

Previously secured, \$765.46; Jarvis Street St. Andrews, \$73; Friend, Toronto, \$2; Rev. J. Pritchard, \$2; Toronto East End Presbyterian Church, \$25.55; do. do. Sunday School, \$7.10; A. D. Ferrier, \$5. Total, \$880.11.

MEMBERS of the British Association in large numbers are arriving weekly in Canada. Men occupying the highest place in the ranks of scientific research are among them. Their visit to this continent will be productive of good to themselves and in turn they will be able to interest British people in the resources and prospects of the Dominion. In traversing the continent, as several of them are now doing and as many more will do before returning, they have no special ends to serve. With minds untrained to habits of keen observation and reflection they will be able to talk and write both learnedly and interestingly of Canada. Their visit will also give an impetus to scientific investigation in this country. Every effort is being made in Montreal and elsewhere, to make the visit of the distinguished guests as agreeable as possible. The British Association for the Advancement of Science meets in Montreal, on the 27th inst.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

GLIMPSES OF THE CELESTIAL COUNTRY. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—A little book on the future state, well written, designed chiefly for young readers.

THE SIDERIAL MESSENGER. Conducted by William W. Payne. (Northfield, Minn.)—This astronomical magazine, conducted by a practical astronomer, Mr. Payne, director of Carleton College Observatory, contains a number of varied facts, relating to "the sublimest of the sciences."

MICHAEL ELLIS'S TEXT. By Margaret E. Winslow. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.) Though the book intimates on its title-page that it is "a story for girls," the boys have just as much need to learn the meaning of the text; the story is intended to illustrate and enforce, viz.: "Even Christ pleased not Himself."

THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN. Edited by Rev. Stephen D. Peet. (Chicago: F. H. Revell.)—The last issue of this magazine, devoted to a special branch of study, is one of the most interesting that has yet appeared. Several valuable articles in the present number would interest readers generally, but are especially valuable to antiquarian and historical students.

SIX YEARS ON THE BORDER. By Mrs. J. B. Rideout. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—Tales of life in the far west are usually sensational and exciting; these brief sketches of frontier life are of a different kind. In plain narrative form they record the struggles and triumphs, the joys and sorrows of Western settlers. The book contains sufficiently interesting incidents to keep up the reader's attention, till the close is reached.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.) The numbers of *The Living Age* for August 3rd and 10th, contain Bossuet, *Quarterly*, Roman Life in the Last Century, and the Liberal Movement in English Literature, *Nation and Review*, The Life of St. Margaret, *Scottish Review*, Newspapers, *Fortnightly*, Wren's Work and its Lessons, and Contemporary Life and Thought in France, *Contemporary*; Easter Week in Amorago, *Mamillan*, Among the Teutons, *Temple Bar*, A Pleasant Home in Breton, *Time*, "The Boy Jones," *All the Year Round*, The Inner Circle Railway Completion, *Globe*, with instalments of "Beauty and the Beast," "Mitchelhurst Place," and "The Baby's Grandmother," and Poetry.

PRESBYTERIANISM FOR THE PEOPLE. By the Rev. Robert Kerr. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—In his preface, Mr. Kerr states that his short treatise does not pretend to be an exhaustive history of Presbyterianism, nor a full exposition of its distinctive doctrines, but it is completely adapted to the purpose for which it was written. Many young people and others friendly to Presbyterianism are far too little acquainted with its polity and creed. The author has written a little book which will not take long to read, but it is so clear that none can fail to understand it. The young reader will know more of Presbyterianism and feel more kindly toward it. It is a book that will serve an excellent purpose.

BEN HANSON. By Jessie M. E. Saxby. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—This neat little volume, containing three good stories of Scottish life, takes its name from the first and principal one, a story of George Watson's College. It is followed by the short but touching sketch of "The Heriot Boy," and the last is: "In Father's Place." The volume is ably written. Though it contains many touches of true pathos, there is nothing of the merely goody-goody about it. It has a healthy and robust freshness which will at once secure the confidence of the young reader and win a place in his heart for the good impressions it is fitted to make. It contains several carefully executed illustrations, familiar to all acquainted with the Scottish capital.

ENGLAND AND CANADA. By Sandford Fleming, C.E., C.M.G., etc. (Montreal: Dawson Brothers.)—The eminent engineer, Mr. Sandford Fleming, had gone to England on pleasure bent. A cablegram from the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway

Company reaches him in London, requesting him to proceed to the Pacific coast. He undertakes the commission, and out of this undertaking originated this very interesting volume which chronicles the incidents and reflections of "A Summer Tour Between Old and New Westminster, with Historical Notes." Though the ordinary routine and usual incidents of a transatlantic voyage are tolerably familiar to most readers, Mr. Fleming writes interestingly on much of what has now become commonplace. His arrival in England recalled a pleasant episode of his landing in Glasgow twenty years before. The glimpse of Willie Gordon is peculiarly pleasing. The most important part of the book is that which describes the author's journey across the continent till he reaches New Westminster. It concludes with an allusion to the future destiny of Canada. There is a large amount of historical information imbedded in the pleasant narrative. The most fittingly descriptive epithet applicable to Mr. Fleming's book is that it is readable. A very distinct and finely executed map is prefixed to the volume.

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.—This Presbytery met on the fifth inst. There were present fifteen ministers and two elders. The Rev. Marc Ami was appointed Moderator for the next six months. After signing the formula, the name of Mr. P. S. Vernier licensed, ordained and appointed ordained missionary to L'Ange Gardien, Perkins and Rippon, on the 10th ultimo, was placed upon the Presbytery Roll. Subjects for written exercises were prescribed for students, of which there are four English and three French within the bounds. The following resolutions were passed, anent brethren who had recently resigned their charges: Anent Mr. George McKay: "The Presbytery of Ottawa hereby records its appreciation of the work and character of the Rev. George McKay, who has so recently left its bounds, and pray that the Great Head of the Church may bless him wherever he may in His providence call him to labour." Anent Mr. McClelland: "The Presbytery of Ottawa hereby records its appreciation of the services and character of the Rev. A. McClelland, B. A., and its regret at the circumstances which have caused his separation from the Presbytery. It is the earnest desire of this Presbytery that he may soon find another field of labour." Dr. Moore gave notice that he would move at next regular meeting of Presbytery that no commendatory resolutions respecting any brother be passed by Presbytery unless he has resided and laboured five years within the bounds of the Presbytery. Notice was given by Messrs. Armstrong and Herridge that at next regular meeting they would move for a change in the present mode of electing the moderator of Presbytery. Dr. Moore submitted an interim report of the Committee on French Evangelization, together with recommendations, which were all adopted. A committee consisting of Dr. Moore, convener, Messrs. Armstrong, White, Herridge and Vernier were appointed a deputation to visit Montebello and report to the adjourned meeting of Presbytery. Mr. Munro, of Manotick, introduced Mr. Alexander Dowie Browne, a young man desirous of being taken under the care of the Presbytery as a student entering college with a view to the holy ministry. After examination as to his motives, and the course of study he intended to take, he was, on motion duly made, taken under the care of the Presbytery. A scheme for holding missionary meetings was adopted, in connection with which it was suggested that they be held during the last week of September, or the first week of October. In connection with such meetings the resolution passed by Presbytery in the spring should not be forgotten, viz.: that congregations should aim at an increase of sixty per cent. on the contributions of 1883, in order to the successful working of the Home Mission and augmentation schemes of the Church. The report of the committee appointed to draft a finding anent the Presbyterian visitation of Manotick was given in, received and adopted. In connection with Acts of Civil Status Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Mr. White, and it was agreed that in the county of Ottawa all the French Presbyterian Churches not now supplied with registration books, be added to the charge of the Rev. P. S. Vernier for registration purposes, and that he be authorized to procure the necessary registration books. The Commissioners to the General Assembly present, reported their diligence. Presbytery adjourned to meet on Thursday, the 2nd October, in Bank Street Church, at ten o'clock, a.m. —JOSEPH WHITE, Pres. Clerk.