

congregations with which they are identified. There is also a general desire that these societies should be closely related to the congregations, and subject in their management and working to the properly constituted authorities of the congregations. In the Presbyterian Church it is desired that they should conform to the spirit and usages of Presbyterianism. There are some estimable brethren who are apprehensive lest the movement should develop undesirable and even injurious tendencies. A fuller acquaintance with the working of these societies might dispel these fears, and if there is any ground for them, means might be taken to guard against possible evils. By next Assembly it is probable that a satisfactory plan may be reached on a subject that is of vital interest to the Church.

The only other question that caused at one time no little excitement, was that relating to the appointment of theological professors. By the action of the Assembly on the one side, and the magnanimous concession of Principal Grant on the other, what might otherwise have given rise to much irritation was happily avoided. Next year the personal elements will be eliminated, and the question has a better chance of being calmly considered on its merits, and no doubt a better understanding will be arrived at. One thing may be said in reference to recent appointments to theological chairs by the General Assembly, the results have been eminently satisfactory and pleasing to the Church generally. The selection by the Supreme Court of Dr. King to preside over Manitoba College has been amply justified by what has been accomplished in and by that institution. The same can be said of the appointment of Professor Baird to a chair in the same college, and none who know the qualifications of the Rev. James Ross, B.D., Perth, for the position he has been chosen to fill in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, will have any misgiving that the confidence of the Assembly has been misplaced. He will enter on the discharge of his professorial work with the most cordial good wishes of all who know him.

The Assembly that has just closed was attended by a large number of elders, many of whom rendered valuable aid in the transaction of business, several taking a prominent part. Messrs. Walter Paul, McGregor, McQueen, Charlton, Hon. David Laird, Joseph Gibson, William Adamson, W. Mortimer Clark and many others participated actively in the transaction of business, and spoke well and effectively. Nor were those who remained silent less faithful and diligent in the performance of their duties. Many of them served on committees and followed the proceedings with alert intelligence, and voted with that independence which generally characterizes them.

Apart from the transaction of the business for which the Assembly exists, there are incidental advantages of great value. The meeting of brethren, who for the rest of the year are scattered across the continent, has an excellent effect. It tends to maintain the unity and advance the progress of the Church. Not the least of the pleasures of attending the Assembly is the cordial fellowship that exists between the brotherhood. Those whose fields of labour lie along the shore of the Atlantic fraternize in the heartiest manner with their co-workers who dwell on the coast of the Pacific, and one spirit pervades all who intervene between the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia. They are all alike patriotic Presbyterians, and better than even that, they are earnestly engaged in seeking the advancement of the Kingdom of God. From the inspiring influences of the Assembly meetings and fraternal intercourse with their brethren, they will return to their respective fields of labour resolving to work more faithfully and more devotedly than ever in the glorious gospel of the blessed God.

### THE SUMMER SESSION.

THE only question before the Assembly that occasioned anything like a keen debate, beside that of the relation of theological colleges to the Church, was whether a summer session should be instituted in Manitoba College. Convictions were strong on both sides. The Home Mission Committee is unanimous in its desire to do the best it can up to the full measure of its resources to reach every necessitous field in the Dominion. Those more immediately interested in theological education are equally desirous of making the training of the ministry as effective as circumstances will permit. These interests are not antagonistic, and none of the speakers on either side did or said anything

to make it appear as if they were. The main plea for the new departure is that it is impossible to build up congregations in remote districts in Manitoba and the North-West when the students are withdrawn during the winter months for the prosecution of their studies. The little congregations they have been instrumental in gathering in the summer are left without any one to hold services. The discouraged settlers drift away, and some of them have a plausible excuse for becoming careless and indifferent, and the Church loses the help and support of many, and they themselves are the greatest losers. In this plea it must be admitted there is great force. We have only to look at many important districts in Ontario and in Quebec and in all the older provinces where the opportunities, once present, passed away not to return, were left unimproved. Dr. Robertson, the energetic Superintendent of Missions in the North-West, who fully realizes the importance of the present time as the best for the expansion of mission work in that wide and promising field, is ceaseless in his efforts to stir up the Church to its duty in this respect. He is in no unworthy sense of the term a man of one idea, and that is the increase and concentration of effort in the field under his supervision. It is well that it is so. The other fields have also able and strenuous advocates, who will not see those districts in which they are specially interested suffer from neglect. To remedy the admitted imperfection that permits whole districts to be without Gospel ordinances for several months of the year, many have come to the conclusion that the most feasible plan is to change the time of study from winter to summer in one of the colleges, so that the students attending there might be free to supply the mission stations in winter. In the course of the discussion Dr. Robertson made a pertinent remark that the past policy of the Church in supplying had been a policy of blunder and neglect.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the line of cleavage on this question is between the Home Mission Committee and the College professors. Members of both organizations differ from each other in as marked a degree as do other members of the Assembly. The contention mainly turned on the recognition of the principle of College Summer Sessions. Some were opposed to such recognition, and spoke and voted consistently on that line. Others were unwilling to look on the proposal as other than an expedient that might be good for the present distress, and therefore temporary in its character. Some members of the Home Mission Committee were decidedly opposed to the change, and Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, who has for many years been one of the most zealous members of that Committee, was an able spokesman for those who held the opinion that the experiment was undesirable. Principal MacVicar, a man of decided convictions and who uniformly speaks with decision, was strongly against the new departure. His plea was that the cause of thorough training for ministerial work would suffer. In this view he was supported by Dr. Proudfoot and others. From the same College as Principal MacVicar, Professor Scrimger spoke forcibly and eloquently in favour of making the proposed change, while for Knox, the venerable Professor Gregg was also emphatic in its favour. The debate on both sides was ably maintained, though it terminated in favour of the summer session, a large majority voting in the affirmative.

The position of Dr. King is worthy of remark. It was apparent that his cautious and well-balanced judgment was not wholly convinced, but he recognized the urgent need of the mission field and the evident desire of the Church that something should be done to meet that need, and at once resolved to make Manitoba College the institution where the experiment should be put to the test. The self-denial involved is characteristic of the man, and the professors associated with him will endeavour loyally to make it a success. And this ought to be the attitude of the whole Church. The scheme was approved of and adopted by a decisive majority, and is therefore entitled to the faithful support of all who desire to see the work of the Church advanced. The additional expenditure involved is but small comparatively, and those who directly aid the work of teaching are willing to do it in a self-sacrificing spirit; there ought, therefore, to be no difficulty in raising all that is required. The result of the experiment will be awaited with interest. It is possible that some of the evils apprehended may be imaginary, and it is also possible that the advantages depicted in glowing and elegant terms may not all be derivable from the scheme, but with united and cordial effort it can be made a success.

## Books and Magazines.

ADMIRERS of George du Maurier's drawings will be pleased to know that his full page cartoons in *Harper's Magazine* interrupted for a time on account of the artist's illness—will be resumed in the July number of that periodical.

CHRISTIAN WORKER is the title of a new monthly published at Springfield, Mass., by the students of the School for Christian Workers. It is carefully edited and neatly printed. From its tone and contents it is well fitted to promote the work in whose interests it has been instituted.

POULTNEY BIGELOW will contribute to the July number of *Harper's Magazine* an account of some personal observations made last year along a portion of "The Czar's Western Frontier," with some deeply interesting facts regarding the Russian persecution of the Stundists and other dissenting sects.

A TIMELY and very interesting feature of the next number of *Harper's Weekly*, published June 22, will be a series of illustrations of the festivities recently held in Genoa in honour of Christopher Columbus. These illustrations will include views of the Columbus Monument at Genoa and of the house in which the great discoverer was born, with portraits of Columbus and Vespucci from the paintings in the Museum at Genoa.

THE COMING KING. By Rev. James Smith. (London: James Nisbet & Co.; Toronto: The Willard Tract Depository.)—This is a clear and earnest presentation of the premillennial theory of the Second Coming, by Rev. James Smith, Free Church minister of Dufftown, Scotland. It would be difficult to find a more condensed or clearer statement of the views held by many good and devout people relating to the Second Advent.

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDENT. (Hartford, Conn.: The Student Publishing Co.)—In addition to pointed editorials, the June number contains several valuable papers. There is one on "The New German Revised Bible," by Dr. Goodspeed, Dr. Charles F. Kent writes on "The Socialistic Ideas of Amos," and Dr. Rubinkam this time treats of Old Testament Study in German Switzerland. "Peter's Early Teachings" is the title of a paper by Rev. Owen James. There is much else in the present number of great interest and value to the students of Sacred Scripture.

THE most popular American poet now living is probably Will Carleton, whose admirers are to be found wherever the English language is spoken. The secret of this popularity is doubtless to be found in his adherence to the principle that there is no thought so great that it cannot be resolved into elements easily understood by the average human intellect. "It should be the work of a poet," he says, "not to make plain thought or lack of thought complex and difficult of being understood, but to simplify and interpret nature and art to his readers; not to produce a series of rhymed riddles and enigmas, but epics, dramas or lyrics such as the human race can understand, enjoy, and use for their entertainment and instruction." Mr. Carleton's host of admirers will be gratified to learn that Harper & Brothers have just ready for publication a new volume of his poems, "City Festivals," the sixth and last of the beautiful and popular Farm and City Series.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—For frontispiece the June number gives a remarkably fine and well-executed portrait of the Earl of Rosebery, and Henry W. Lucy gives an admirable sketch of the able, accomplished and popular Scottish nobleman. There is an illustrated paper by "Vigilant" of the *Sportsman*, who gives "Recollections of Epsom and the Derby." "The Midland Railway Locomotive Works at Derby," by Charles Henry Jones, is interesting. Other papers are "Dunster and its Castle," finely illustrated; "Church Music and Congregational Singing," by Hon. Edward Piesinger, C.B.; "Candle Making," by Joseph Hatton, and a short story, "Evening," by Lady Lindsay. The serial story, a "Deplorable Affair," is continued, and E. J. Milliken glorifies certain English celebrities in a poem entitled "A Pageant of Thames Poets."

ARCADIA. (Montreal: 180 St. James Street.)—This new musical, artistic and literary magazine is published twice a month. The latest issue is well filled in its three departments. The papers devoted to music comprise an Ottawa letter from Miss Lampman, herself a musician not unknown to fame; an interesting article on Rossini, translated from "La Scena Illustrata," of Florence, and was signed by Lord Saunders, Kingston; a rondeau on Scarlatti, by D. C. Scott, and other readable matter. A review of the more precious objects in the Tempest bequest; correspondence on art in London, Toronto, etc., and a Sonnet by Sydney Dabell are the chief features of the art division, and under the head of literature we have a sonnet on the "Sonnet by Sappho"; an article on "E. A. Freeman," by Dr. Adams, of Lennoxville; the continuation of the "La Tour des Anges," Table Talk, Causerie, Boston Letter, a poem, "Ease," by Harriston T. Morris, Philadelphia; a further criticism of Swinburne's new tragedy, literary notes and new books. Truly, sixteen honest pages of good reading.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DAVID MILNE HOME, LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.G.S., &c. By His Daughter, G. M. H. (Edinburgh: David Douglas.)—The subject of this interesting and well-written biography belonged to a class whose representatives are fast passing away. The men who pursue scientific study disinterestedly and who desire to live useful and unobtrusive lives are not now so numerous as they used to be. In an age intensely practical, men have neither the time nor the inclination to pursue a life of scientific study for its own sake, and to do good mainly because of a predominant impulse. David Milne Home was a fine type of man. He studied law with a view to entering that profession. After practising for a time he devoted his attention to scientific pursuits, geology being a favourite study. In this and in cognate branches of scientific study he achieved distinction, and obtained in connection therewith several important appointments. He was a man of firm moral principle, and imbued with a deeply religious spirit, having taken an active part in the Disruption controversy. He was ever intent on doing all he could to advance the welfare of those whose lot was cast in adverse circumstances. He was a man of lofty character, unswerving integrity and devout in spirit, ever seeking to perform the task lying nearest to his hand. It is scarcely necessary to add that the biographer has done her work with excellent taste and in a loving spirit. The perusal of her work acts like a moral tonic.