

would have been worse than the triumph of the Cross actually was. The Crusades themselves, St. Bartholomew, the Inquisition, prosecutions for heresy and witchcraft, are only some of the horrors that have marked the dreadful fate of the western world under Christianity. There is nothing to show that, had the Crescent triumphed, these horrors would have been exceeded or even equalled. But certainly the west would have been saved from three of the most horrible vices that have ever defaced humanity—drunkenness, prostitution and gambling. These vices have probably produced more misery and distress in the world than the more active and prominent efforts of the cut-throats whom Principal Grant would have us emulate. And yet Christianity has failed to eradicate them, and it has been left for modern science and modern thought to take the first steps to this end. "It is our duty to hasten the coming of the kingdom of God," says our modern Crusader; and to this end he would rush into a fanatical war, the horror and extent of which can be but dimly estimated, and—leave the result to God. Truly, grand advice from a prominent Christian divine.

Mahayana Buddhism in Japan.

This is the title of a most interesting paper in the August *Arena*, by Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Cheney, who has for years been a close student of the Flowery Land and the customs, manners and religions of her people. The impetus given to the study of Oriental religions by the Parliament of Religions at the World's Fair has led to much serious investigation along these lines and has dispelled many of the absurd ideas in regard to Eastern religions which have so long gained currency amongst all Western peoples. Mrs. Cheney gives a definition of Nirvana which will be new to many readers, and her thoughtful and sympathetic analysis of Mahayana Buddhism will form a valuable contribution to the literature dealing with Oriental religions.

"A Study of the Pentateuch."

We have received from the press of H. L. Hastings, Boston, a copy of Dr. Rufus P. Stebbins' work under the above title. Dr. Stebbins is President and Lecturer on Hebrew Literature and Professor of Theology at Meadville Theological School (Unitarian). The present issue does credit to the judgment of the publisher. Some few years ago Dr. Stebbins delivered a course of lectures on Biblical criticism, which were shortly afterwards published in one volume by the Christian Register Association of Boston, under the title, "A Study of the Pentateuch." The book, however, was soon regarded as giving too conservative a treatment to the subject, and its publication was discontinued. Mr. Hastings, the Christian publisher, of Boston, however, had read the work, and considered it too valuable to be permitted to drop out of print; he accordingly bought the plates and prepared a large edition, issuing it in connection with his "Anti-Infernal Library," price 40 cents. Such a volume by a learned Unitarian scholar is well worth careful perusal, if for no other reason than to learn why the contentions of some of the destructive critics were rejected by one whose denominational affiliations would naturally lead him to accept them. Not the least valuable part of the volume is the publisher's preface, containing as it does the criticism by Prof. C. H. Toy and some notes by Dr. Stebbins. The author shows many good reasons for concluding that "the Law," the bulk of the Pentateuch, had been in existence long before the rest of the Bible was written, though he specially and wisely disclaims any intention to fix dates for Moses or other writers.