

their Christian faith disturbed by the Copernican astronomy and by the geological doctrine of the antiquity of the earth, so men are practically ceasing, whether logically or illogically, to feel their Christian faith disturbed by the scientific discoveries which marked the middle of the nineteenth century."

The book, which is handsomely illustrated and well printed, is published in the United States by A. C. Armstrong & Co. and in Canada by William Briggs.

### ENGLISH EDUCATION ACT.

It is widely conceded the recent English education act will have to be repealed, mainly through the passive resistance of the non-Episcopal denominations. When Independents and Methodists, and Presbyterians and Baptists declined to pay taxes levied for the advantage of one denomination preferring to let their furniture be sold at public auction, their passive self-denial set in motion influences of sympathy and indignation which are proving too powerful to be withstood. There may be lessons here for Canada. Where a cause is clearly right, and where Christian forces choose to unite, and especially where willingness to make personal sacrifice is shown, much might be done, as in the case of the education act in England.

### CHINA OF THE FUTURE.

The trouble between Japan and Russia would have much to do with the future of China; and the play of influences will tend in time to open China to every "Western" wind that blows. Great Britain and the United States have no idea of being kept out of their fair share of Chinese trade. As a recent writer puts it, a stable, enlightened, progressive government may become a commercial necessity, a world necessity for the sake of successful trade. "European and American ideals have been sifting like fine flour into the crevices of Chinese life." In these days, events move rapidly; modern communications and modern inventions enable them to move rapidly. Twenty years hence every dialect and every section of China may be as accessible to the gospel as any part of Great Britain or the United States.

There were political personalities in other days with which we in Canada have little to compare. In January, 1836, as we see in the latest *Life of Disraeli*, that statesman wrote a series of letters to *The Times*, and delivered a number of speeches against O'Connell, in which he says O'Connell's lucubrations "are not the result of any intellectual exertions, but merely of a muscular motion." He speaks of his antagonist as "an obscure animal." An editor who has fallen foul of him he says he has had (metaphorically) "to inflict sundry kicks on the baser part of his base body," and to "make him eat dirt, and his own words, fouler than any filth," etc. O'Connell, speaking of Disraeli, says: "He possesses just the qualities of the impenitent thief who died upon the Cross, whose name I verily believe, must have been Disraeli."

### STATE OF FUNDS AS AT 8th FEB 1904.

The following statement shows the receipts to 8th February 1903 and 1904. In the last column, the amount still required this month to end the year free from debt, is given.

	1903	1904	Still required
Home Missions.....	\$78,786.74	\$65,576.37	\$44,423.63
Augmentation.....	13,971.11	11,224.99	18,746.91
Foreign Missions.....	38,187.98	36,131.10	63,671.94
French Evangelization.....	13,951.96	11,276.82	12,723.18
Pointe aux Trembles.....	6,676.95	5,941.00	6,038.00
Mt. St. Vincent Fund.....	6,712.43	5,132.98	9,967.97
Aged & Infirm Miss. Fund.....	5,430.00	5,922.95	8,967.05
Assembly Fund.....	2,541.90	2,306.55	5,201.45
Knox College.....	3,975.80	2,417.75	9,530.25
Queen's College.....	1,234.65	1,234.88	7,145.12
Montreal College.....	1,616.74	1,431.06	3,565.94
Manitoba College.....	2,458.61	2,000.14	599.56

The receipts during the past week have been very disappointing, and, in the case of every fund with one exception, are very greatly behind the receipts of the corresponding date a year ago. Especially is this true of the Home Mission Fund, the receipts for which are upwards of \$10,000 less than on the 8th February 1903. I account for this, to some extent, to the blocking up of the roads in many sections of the country. Unfortunately there are a large number of sessions that leave contributions for the schemes of the church to be taken up in the last month of the year, and the weather conditions this winter are very unfavorable.

In the case of the Home Mission Fund the greatly lessened receipts are owing to a large number of friends and congregations who last year contributed special amounts for the support of individual missionaries not doing so this year. There are about congregations that have not yet forwarded their contributions. It is hoped that every minister and session will take special steps with a view to having their contributions taken up within the next fortnight and forwarded before the year closes on Monday, the 29th inst.

R. H. W.

Toronto, 8th Feb, 1904

The Herald and Presbyter recalls one of the notable features of D. L. Moody's preaching—the frequent emphasis he put upon his duty of restitution and reconciliation, and the many cases he had to deal with in which the required steps were taken. A defaulter, on hearing Mr. Moody put all he had left, \$95, in Mr. Moody's hands, met his employers, was forgiven, and both the man and his employers were blessed in yielding their hearts to God, while Mr. Moody prayed for them. Another man who had cheated the government out of \$1,500 sent his check to the United States Treasury, and then, having brought forth fruit to meet for repentance, found peace with God and an abundant salvation. Another man had set fire to his mother's house to get the insurance money to help her out of a pressing financial strait. Under Mr. Moody's appeals and advice he figured up his debt to the insurance company, with interest, paid it, and entered at once upon the joys of a Christian hope.

So far no confirmation has come of the statement made in a cablegram that Pope Pius X., contemplated re-signing his high office; but there may be something in it. Perhaps he finds the men who surround him too strong for him—he cannot carry out such a moderate and conciliatory policy as he desires.

### Literary Notes.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE for January opens with the first installment of a new story by Katherine Cecil Thurston which promises to be very good. The Trader of Last Notch is also most interesting—one of the short stories for which Blackwood's is noted. Silk O' the Kine; a Tale of the Isles, is a story in verse by Alfred Noyes. Apart from fiction there are many good articles, including: A Nation at Play; the Peril of Games; Heraldry; Herbert Spencer; a Portrait, and Richard Cadden. Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

THE CONTEMPORARY REVIEW for January gives the leading place to an article by D. A. M. Fairbairn on Herbert Spencer. Alexander Ulric's article, The Tibetan Puzzle, is forcible and to the point, and forms with Dr. Dillion's discussion of the subject in Foreign Affairs a rather full commentary on what cannot fail to be of interest to those who follow the movements of the great European powers. Other articles are: The Need for a Radical Party, The Taxation of Foreign Investments, and Dialect Plays in Italy. Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.

The death of Herbert Spencer is the occasion of two articles in the current number of The Contemporary Review—a character sketch by William Henry Hudson, and Mr. Herbert Spencer and the Dangers of Specialism, by John Beattie Crozier. Alfred Stead discusses The Far Eastern Problem, and Alexander Kinloch The Bossiak and Russia's Social Unrest. Ibsen's Apprenticeship is an excellent review of the forces which have made the great dramatist. Other subjects of special interest are: The Congo Question, The Situation in Morocco, and The Secession of Panama. Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

A Pembroke contemporary comments as follows on the business-like methods of the chairman and secretary of a congregational meeting in that town: The importance of a good chairman and an efficient secretary at any meeting for the transaction of business was well illustrated at the annual meeting of Calvin church on Monday evening last. The Rev. Dr. Bayne was in the chair. Dr. Bayne is, at present, the Moderator of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa and is in our judgment, the best presiding officer we have ever known, either in the church or out of it. The Secretary was Mr. S. E. Mitchell, Police Magistrate of Pembroke and for thirty-five years, clerk of the Renfrew County Council. Mr. Mitchell is acknowledged to be the best County Council Clerk in the Province. It is small wonder then that the business on Monday evening went with smoothness and despatch. Nothing was forgotten. There was not a hitch or a moment's delay. The crowd had confidence in the two men at the helm, and a great mass of business was transacted in the two hours of the meetings duration.

An American paper has seen a statement that two brothers in New Albany, Ind., have not failed to answer "present" at the roll call of the German Evangelical Sunday School for ten years. Are there any Sunday schools in Canada that can show such a record?