

Perhaps some would be interested to know how we employ our time. Our programme is: Rise at 6; ablutions, then prayers, at 6.30; breakfast at 7; study until 9, when my Japanese teacher comes and helps me correct sermons in Japanese, learn Chinese characters, and study the Japanese language generally until 12; then luncheon. In the afternoon, from 1 to 3, is usually reserved for callers. After that I visit prospective candidates for baptism, hold classes, and prepare for the work of next day. At least one hour every afternoon I take for working in my little garden, or cutting our firewood. Supper at 6; then letter-writing, or preparation for next day's work. At 9 our little household assembles for a service in Japanese, and we retire about 10. I say this is our *programme*; but it is often broken in upon by some sudden business, or much more often by some troublesome set of guests; for it is considered quite proper to call at any hour from early morn till late at night. Let me close this rather long letter with the prayer that He who ruleth all will direct the deliberations of your synod, and that each member, not only of the synod, but of the whole Canadian Church, may receive such an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit that his heart will burn with love and zeal for the spread of God's truth both at home and in heathen lands.

Books and Periodicals Department.

A Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church. Second series. Translated into English, with Prolegomena and Explanatory Notes, under the editorial supervision of Dr. Philip Schaff and Dr. Henry Wace. Vol. VI. *St. Jerome, Letters and Select Works.* New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1893.

In this handsome volume, we have the principal works of St. Jerome translated into English by the Hon. W. H. Fremantle, M.A., Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, with the assistance of Rev. G. Lewis, M.A., and Rev. W. G. Martley, M.A., all of Balliol College, Oxford. The period of time embraced by the life of St. Jerome is a most interesting one to the student of ecclesiastical history. Born in the troubled times which followed the death of Constantine (337), he saw, as a school boy and student, the reigns of Julian the Apostate, and those of Jovian and Valentinian.

In the year when Athanasius died he went to the east, and was in the desert of Antioch when, on the death of Valentinian, Valens became emperor, and was succeeded by Theodosius, which brought him to an important epoch in the history of the Christian Church; for Theodosius was a vigorous supporter of the Christian faith, and by his influence paganism was destroyed. During this time, St. Jerome flourished as a well-known ecclesiastic. His name is associated with Bethlehem, where he lived on three separate occasions as a monk; and with the Vulgate or Latin version of the Scriptures, of which he was the translator. This he translated from the Hebrew, in order to set at rest certain irregular versions of the Septuagint which were in vogue in his time. The writings of St. Jerome, more than those of any of the fathers, bring before us the general as well as the ecclesiastical life of his time—a time of special interest, the last age of the old Greco-Roman civilization, the beginning of an altered world. They show, both in his letters and his controversies, the workings of a vigorous mind. It may be

said of him that he bore the chief part in introducing the ascetic life into western Europe. The last period of his life was passed in the midst of privations, the loss of friends and frequent illnesses, in his old favorite monastery at Bethlehem. Rome was in the utter confusion caused by the invasion of the Goths. Still he found time to carry on his Pelagian controversy. The pity of it that so many fine minds have had to spend their strength in the bitterness of controversy! He died near the birthplace of his Master in the year 420.

The writings of a man of this kind must of necessity be valuable and interesting, and the Christian Literature Company are to be congratulated upon giving to the world, in this handsome, well-printed volume, an English version of them, such as any one may read.

The recent discussion about the annexation of Hawaii to the United States renders especially timely the leading article in *The Missionary Review of the World* for July, on "The Islands of the Sea," a *résumé* of the missionary enterprises in the Pacific islands, which have been in many cases so marvellously successful. The author is the Rev. Samuel McFarlane, LL.D., F.R.G.S. Another article in the same number on the "Evangelization of the Islands of the Pacific," written by Rev. Eugene Dunlap, is of especial interest. Another article in the same number, which will be read with general interest during this hot weather, is the leading article in the department of Monthly Concert of Missions, entitled "Circumpolar Evangelization, or the Moravian Missions in Greenland, Labrador, and Alaska," by the Rev. J. Taylor Hamilton, D.D. All the departments, as usual, are full of interesting and timely articles. Published by Funk & Wagnalls Company, 18 and 20 Astor Place, New York, at \$2 per year.

"Josiah Allen's Wife" has visited Chicago, and will give the results of her observations in a book entitled "Samantha at the World's Fair," the early publication of which is announced by the Funk & Wagnalls Company. There can be no doubt but that the impressions of the unsophisticated but irrepressible Samantha in regard to Christopher Columbus and his nineteenth century admirers will be exceedingly rich reading. Samantha went to Chicago with authority to tender the freedom of Jonesville to the Duke of Veragua, but why he has not seen fit to accept doth not yet appear. Possibly, Josiah can explain on the ground that his too-fastidious spouse wouldn't allow him to arrange a bull-fight in the back meadow for the duke's entertainment. Chicago presents a large field for Samantha's genius to caper in. Her encounters with the Infanta, Mayor Harrison, Paderewski, and other "features" of the fair, as well as her trip through the Midway Plaisance, and her comments on the sedan chairs, the gondolas, the cave of the cliff-dwellers, the Eskimo village, etc., are most laughable. The volume, which will of course be illustrated, is to be issued in September, and will be a much-prized souvenir of the fair both by those who have been there and seen the sights described by the inimitable Samantha, and also for those who were not so fortunate.

The Illustrated News of the World (New York edition of *The Illustrated London News*). The cost of this edition, the exact counterpart of the English publication, is only \$5 a year. The paper, illustrations, and reading matter are all good, and worthy of a place in homes where high-class periodicals are appreciated.

Germania. A. W. Spanhoofd, of Manchester, New Hampshire, publishes an interesting periodical for the study of the German language. Each number contains valuable assistance for students of that tongue.

Newbery House Magazine. Griffiths, Farrer, Okeden & Welsh, London, England. This magazine comes every month as a welcome visitor. Its articles are usually on themes of interest to churchmen, but frequently of a general nature, instructive for all. Numerous illustrations from time to time are found in it.