

It is well and dutiful to expose the perversions and mistakes of the Church. There is no need to ignore the fact that this is an age of doubt. The best solvent for sincere religious doubt is the teaching of the truth, the love, the life, the death and the rising again of Jesus, and amid all discouragements let us rest assured that to Him shall the gathering of the nations be. To inspire the minds of those preparing for the work of preaching the Gospel with this grand hope is a worthier task than detailing the negations of an attenuated Broad Churchism. The new pastor of St. Paul's has a far higher and more blessed work to accomplish than that.

### EMOTIONAL INSANITY VERSUS JUSTICE.

TWO trials eliciting a great degree of popular interest have recently been concluded in United States Courts, one at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the other at Batavia, New York. In both cases the culprit was tried for the crime of murder. The fatal pistol was the fatal instrument by which the lawless deeds were done. The prompting cause at Pittsburgh and Batavia was a scandalous violation of female honour. The case first disposed of was that of a young man, James Nutt, whose father had been shot by a shameless villain named Dakes, who with the brazen audacity of the reckless libertine, had wronged the sister of the young man just acquitted, and then wrote to her father a series of insulting letters. The girl's father went demanding satisfaction and was shot down. The guilty assassin was tried but according to the devious ways of the law where judges are elected and juries can be bribed he was allowed to escape the penalty of his crime. The son of the murdered father and the brother of the wronged sister, snatched his opportunity and shot the betrayer and murderer. In due time James Nutt was tried and acquitted by the jury. The popular emotion displayed appears to have been extraordinary. Everywhere the trial and all the circumstances in the series of crimes were the theme of excited conversation. The dictates of reason were forgotten. The great principles of justice and social order were submerged beneath the waves of sentimental excitement. Clergymen were so far carried away by the ebullition of popular feeling, that, forgetting the sacredness of their office and the calm unbending majesty of justice they talked, oh so eloquently, of "overleaping the formal restraints of law" in order that sentiment might flow on at its sweet but demoralizing will.

Another travesty of justice no less glaring has been displayed by the Rowell trial at Batavia. Rowell's wife was unfaithful. By the instigation of Rowell's former partner, who had, as he supposed, a grievance to avenge, and who played the part of a modified Iago, working on the feelings of the injured husband. A plot was laid for the capture and exposure of a libertine lawyer, the destroyer of Rowell's domestic peace. The plot went farther than was intended. It ended in the capture and death of the betrayer by the ever-ready revolver. The trial ended in the acquittal of the murderer on the most prevailing of all pleas, "emotional insanity" amid the wild jubilation of the susceptible multitude.

It is perfectly true that these victims of vengeance richly deserved to die. It may be equally true that those who fired the death-dealing shots had strong provocation, and that in their case capital punishment would have been unnecessarily severe, but their liberation on the insanity plea amid the plaudits of the populace is a disgrace to the administration of justice in this century.

These events point out strongly the wisdom and the justice of bringing the seducer under the operation of criminal law, and of suppressing the barbarous custom of carrying revolvers. In clinging to this foolish habit the average American is but a single remove in advance of his dusky predecessor who never roamed abroad without his tomahawk.

A *pro renata* meeting of the Presbytery of Owen Sound was held on Feb. 1st. It was agreed 1. That the Rev. J. B. Fraser be inducted into the pastoral charge of Lake Shore and Leith, on the 14th of February at two p.m. 2. A call from Chatsworth congregation to the Rev. John McAlpine was sustained. The call was signed by 185 communicants and 125 adherents. Salary promised is \$300 and a manse. Mr. McAlpine accepted the call and the induction was appointed to take place on the 20th of February at two p.m.

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

**HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE.** (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—This beautiful weekly fully keeps up its well-deserved reputation for superior excellence in contents, both literary and pictorial.

**ST. NICHOLAS.** (New York: The Century Co.)—The readers of *St. Nicholas* will be delighted with the February issue of this favourite magazine for young people. It is specially good, being the midwinter number. It has an appropriate frontispiece, "A Midwinter Night." The articles, stories, poems, and pictures are very attractive.

**TOPICAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND.** By James L. Hughes. (Toronto and Winnipeg: W. J. Gage & Co.)—This is a clear and condensed view of the leading facts of English History systematically arranged for the use of pupils preparing for the various examinations. For this purpose it is thoroughly adapted. It forms one of Gage's Educational Primer Series.

**THE HOMILETIC MAGAZINE.** (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The February number contains the usual supply of rich and varied material for the pulpit and the class-room. Among the contributors this month are such attractive names as Bishop Matthew Simpson, Canon Duckworth, Rev. R. S. Storrs, D.D., Rev. Chas. F. Deems, LL.D., Rev. John Potts, D.D., Rev. Joseph T. Duryea, D.D., Dio Lewis, M.D., etc.

**FALSE SYNTAX.** (Toronto and Winnipeg: W. J. Gage & Co.)—Another of Gage's Examination Primer Series. The first part gives examples of errors in the use of the various parts of speech. The remaining portion of the work contains many instances of syntactical errors the correction of which would be a valuable and instructive exercise. The examples given have the merit or rather demerit of being actual inaccuracies by *bona fide* pupils. The youthful student of the English language will find this a useful little book.

**ELECTRA: A Belles Lettres Monthly for Young People.** Edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn. (Louisville, Ky.: Isabella M. Leyburn.)—True to its motto, "excelsior," *Electra* keeps steadily ascending. The engraving, always a special feature of this journal, in the current number is a beautiful symbolical representation of the fall of Hungary. Among the many good things in prose and poetry we note "Saunterings about Monticello," by William T. Price; "Woman and the Bible," by Rev. George L. Leyburn; and "My Rights," a poem, by Susan Coolidge. The serial stories are continued, and the Editorial Department is this time particularly full and interesting.

**THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.** (Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.)—A thoughtful and sensible paper by S. T. Skidmore opens the January number of this standard educational serial. It is followed by the first instalment of an interesting and well-written paper on "The Life and Work of Darwin," by George Acheson, M. A. The question of "Corporal Punishment in Schools," though discussed from an English stand-point, deserves to be read carefully. T. W. gives the first of a series of papers under the title of "Letters from a Canadian Student Abroad." The present contribution is racy and readable. The technical departments are full, useful and valuable. Of the editorial notes it can be truthfully said that they are varied, elegant and incisive. Altogether, the current number is an excellent one.

**THE TEMPERANCE PRIMER.** By G. D. Platt, B.A. (Toronto and Winnipeg: W. J. Gage & Co.)—Mr. Platt, public school inspector of Prince Edward county, is the author of this little treatise. It has been felt for a long time that the youth of our country ought to be taught the principles of temperance during their attendance at the public school. A correct knowledge of the nature and evil effects of alcohol would do much to raise up a race of temperate men and women in the land. This little work is just such as is required. It is clear, concise and easily understood. Mr. Platt has admirably fulfilled the task assigned him in the preparation of this excellent manual. It is to be hoped that it will soon find a place in the public schools of the country.

**THE CENTURY MAGAZINE.** (New York: The Century Co.)—The enterprising publishers of the *Century* have succeeded in making the present mid-winter

number a specially attractive one. The engravings are profuse in number and superior in execution. Rembrandt's "Head of a Man," given as a frontispiece, is very impressive. The great poets receive much attention in this number. Signor Salvini writes on "Impressions of Shakespeare's 'Lear.'" There are two articles on Dante and one on Keats, the latter by Edmund C. Steadman. Mrs. Alice Meynell dispels some of the mystery of Dickens' last story by telling "How Edwin Drood was illustrated." The prison labour question is ably discussed by George W. Cable, and General McLellan writes on "The Princes of the House of Orleans." Bric-a-brac, Topics of the Time, and Open Letters, besides other excellent contributions in story and poetry, make a most attractive issue of one of the finest magazines published.

**THE HOMILETIC MAGAZINE.** (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)—"A Patriarch's View of Life" is the opening sermon in the January number of the *Homiletic*. The outlines under the head of "Practical Homiletics," though brief, are good and suggestive. The editor has begun a new series of Scripture studies in a similar vein to that completed in the last number. The new series is entitled "Minor Lights of Scripture." The subject, admirably treated, of the first paper is "The Defrauded Widow; or, Coincidences in Life," founded on 2 King viii. 5. The Symposium continues the interesting subjects of discussion begun in the last volume. The Dean of Canterbury, the Rev. Paton J. Gloag, D.D., and other well-known divines have contributions in the Expository Section. The other contents of the *Homiletic* are of more than average excellence. The first number of the new volume will not disappoint regular readers, and it will fully satisfy those who have subscribed to this magazine, a theological library in itself, for the first time.

**HARPER'S MAGAZINE.** (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The February number of *Harper's* opens with a striking frontispiece, "The Bible Reading," forming an illustration to William Black's new story, "Judith Shakespeare," which latter grows in interest and power. Other noteworthy features are "The Upper Thames," by Joseph Hatton. "The Doctor-killing Oregons," by Benjamin Alvord. "At Mentone. II.," by Constance Fenimore Woolson. "A Winter in Canada," by C. H. Farham. "Jacob Ruysdael," by E. Mason. "Our Country's Cradle," by T. W. Higginson. "David Poindexter's Disappearance," a story by Julian Hawthorne. "Nature's Serial Story," III., by E. P. Roe. "Glimpses of Emerson," by Annie Fields, and "The National Government and Education," by Charles Thwing. Most of these articles contain numerous illustrations, many of them in the highest style of the engraver art. Poetry and story of excellent quality and sufficient quantity to gratify all reasonable tastes are to be found in its pages, while the editorial departments are filled with a profusion of good things.

**THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.** (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—This magazine, the representative of what is best in American literature, keeps abreast of the intellectual requirements of the age. Among its contributors are writers who are admired and appreciated on both sides of the Atlantic. The January number, having reached us late, was not noticed at the usual time. It is a decidedly superior number. What promises to be an excellent serial story "In War Time," by S. Weir Mitchell is begun. Henry James, writes a most genial, interesting and appreciative sketch of "Ivan Tourgenieff." The other contents are fully up to the high standard which the *Atlantic* maintains. The February number contains "Voices of Power," by O. B. Frothingham. Elizabeth Robins writes a most interesting paper on "The Vagabonds and Criminals of India." "Reminiscences of Christ's Hospital," by J. M. Hillyar, will be read with interest by those who are unfamiliar with the history of that famous institution, and those who are, will be delighted with the paper. "In War Time" is continued and grows in interest, while the other serial novels are unabated in their excellence and attractiveness. These are F. Marion Crawford's "A Roman Singer;" George Parsons' Lathrop's "Newport;" and Henry James' "En Province." "A Visit to South Carolina in 1860," and "The Confederate Cruisers" are papers of much historical value and interest. The literary criticism of recent noteworthy books is fresh and discriminating. The poetic contributors are of very high merit. The new volume of the *Atlantic Monthly* has made a most auspicious beginning.