

the stars in His right hand will see that the lamps in His temple burn bright and clearly.

The Rev. John Smith, of Broughton Place United Presbyterian Church, has paid his first visit to the American continent, and wherever his too brief stay has permitted him to appear has made a most favourable impression. At Northfield his ministrations have been richly enjoyed, and Mr. Moody has not hesitated to keep him in the forefront. In Chicago he has also secured the kindly good-will of all who had the privilege of hearing him. Some of the journals in that city have placed a very high estimate on the service he has been enabled to render in the cause of evangelical Christianity. On Sabbath week Toronto was favoured with a brief visit, and the successor of John Cairns and colleague of Dr. Andrew Thomson, occupied the pulpit of St. James Square Church morning and evening. The congregation that usually worships there enjoys the able and instructive ministrations of Dr. Kellogg, whose scholarly attainments are widely recognized, and whose many excellent personal qualities endear him to his people. It is not strange, therefore, that they and many others from other congregations should listen with interest and delight to the discourses of John Smith.

His morning sermon was based on Abraham's plea on behalf of doomed Sodom. It abounded in clear, impressive statement of the great principles involved in the intercession of the patriarch, should even ten righteous be found uncontaminated in the sweltering mass of corruption, that could only be wiped out by the lurid fire that fell from heaven. It also abounded in passages of mingled power and pathos, as for example, a reference to the cry that went up from the city which is the field of the preacher's own labours. The evening sermon was in a different vein, though in the same spirit. As to its merits and character readers can judge for themselves. It appears on another page of this issue, and is eminently worthy of most careful perusal.

Mr. Smith, though in physical stature is barely up to the medium height, is possessed of a striking personality. His countenance is a combination of strength and winning gentleness, lighted up with clear, honest and kindly eyes. His voice is full and musical, with distinct articulation. It is evident that he has not committed the mistake some of the students of his nationality are disposed to make. There is a tendency to neglect the art of public speaking. It is thought to be sufficient that a man have somewhat to say and it does not matter much how he says it provided he can make himself understood. It matters, however, a great deal. The art of public speaking cannot be despised with impunity. At all events Mr. Smith has not fallen into that error. He speaks with an energy and force with accompanying gestures that may almost be considered exceptional, at least, in Presbyterian pulpits. But far higher than all these accessories are the evangelical fervour, the spiritual power, the strong intellectual grasp, the wide culture of the man, that mark him out as one of the representative preachers of the time whose claims to popular esteem and respect do not depend on a vapid sensationalism, or trying to perform on the tight rope that stretches between the walls of sound doctrine and the shifting tents of heterodoxy, which in some quarters meets with no slight applause.

Mr. Smith is a native of Aberdeenshire, where he laid the foundations of his scholarship. He is an alumnus of Aberdeen University, in which institution he achieved distinction, and where there is a floating tradition that on passing a certain examination with great credit, an examiner asked him his name, to which the reply of course was "John Smith." "Well," responded his learned interrogator, "you will become known in spite of your name." The examiner said truly. John Smith is already a spiritual force in our day, and if spared has evidently a great work to accomplish.

#### NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS NEEDED.

SEVERAL influential journals in different parts of the Dominion have been making appeals to the pulpit and the religious press to come out boldly in denunciation of the political corruption that is being revealed in the Committees now in session in the Dominion Capital. The fact is that ministers in their political relations have rather a hard time of it. Like other estimable members of the commonwealth, they very likely have their own political affinities, and as most communities in the matter of politics are a little mixed, it follows of necessity that

if the pastor is pronounced in his partisan leanings, trouble is sure to follow. As a general rule it is best for a minister not to seek special prominence in the political arena. He can best maintain his moral and spiritual influence by devoting his energies to his own special work. But is not the minister a man and a citizen? Has he to be silenced when questions affecting the well-being of the country, and especially those of a moral bearing, are being warmly discussed by citizens generally? Is the unscrupulous political trickster, the pachydermatous ward-heeler, to be permitted unrestrained freedom of speech and action, and the responsible minister of the Gospel alone to be excluded from all participation in the discussion of questions relating to the highest national interests? In ordinary circumstances it is best for the minister to leave the agitation of political questions to those who make them their speciality; but there are times when he can intervene with power and effect. The minister who is open to the charge of being a political poltroon has so little influence that he had better, for his own comfort and usefulness, leave public questions severely alone. The so-called independents carry no influence, and command but little respect. Those who are known to be sincere in their convictions will always command a respectful hearing when duty prompts them to make deliverances on public affairs. The minister has a right to his convictions, and to the exercise of his privileges of citizenship. So long as he chooses to perform these duties in a straightforward and manly way, he can afford to disregard the carping criticisms of the captious.

The difficulty that ministers who occasionally take part in public affairs have to encounter is the virulent attacks of a partisan press. If their utterances are in some respects distasteful to either party, the side on which reflections are cast is sure to resent in no delicate fashion the imputations under which it feels uneasy. There is no doubt that while the present investigations are in progress there are many searchings of heart, and the best citizens throughout the Dominion irrespective of party sympathies feel keenly that the honour of some of the prominent men in public life has been seriously besmirched. Many however feel that to form an unbiassed and correct judgment it is desirable to wait until those who have been accused are heard in their defence. When all parties have given what explanations they can then is the time for an impartial and a just judgment. There is every probability that a correct estimate will be formed by the Christian ministry and by all who desire to see righteousness triumph. It may be confidently assumed that no man who ministers to sacred things will attempt a defence of the gross corruption and moral degradation that has already been revealed.

It is an unmistakable fact that the public conscience has been hypnotized by the low tone of morality prevailing. Whatever may be the complicity or innocence of responsible cabinet ministers it is plain that reckless demoralization has been suffered to invade several of the administrative departments. How unscrupulous and utterly selfish contractors and their creatures should have been permitted to have virtual access to the public treasury is a matter of wonderment to people who even have no very clear perception of a higher morality than that honesty is the best policy. Many well meaning people gloss over the shameful revelations with a shrug and say that all politicians are alike. But this is no answer worthy of intelligent and responsible citizens. Those who are swayed by corrupt and degrading influences wish for little more than that people should continue in this comatose moral state, most favourable to them in their career of scheming and plunder. It matters little whether a Conservative or a Liberal is caught in corrupt or dishonest acts. Let the offender, whatever his political stripe, be courteously but firmly told "Never more be officer of mine." The time for weak sentiment and mistaken leniency is past. So long continued and so wide spread has demoralization become that mild measures are no longer applicable. Stern rhadamantine justice must have sway until the conduct of those entrusted with the management of public affairs is above suspicion. It is not absolutely necessary that either of the great parties into which the people are politically divided should hold the reins of power at Ottawa, but it is essential that our rulers be men of stainless personal integrity. The fountain head whence a nation's legislation flows should be pure and uncontaminated. The men at the head of our national affairs should be such as we can look up to with respect, and not of the kind that upright citizens can only regard with undisguised contempt.

## Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This most valuable weekly keeps up its well-deserved reputation in supplying its readers with the best current literature of the time.

THE *Illustrated London News*, American Edition, is a handsomely illustrated weekly. The last few numbers have many excellent engravings and many fine contributions. A powerfully written story by Hall Cain has been begun.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—In this weekly young readers have their special tastes well provided for. There is a pleasing variety of instructive and entertaining articles, stories and poems, and all splendidly illustrated.

OUR LITTLE FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—A most admirable little monthly for little readers. Its pages contain just such material as is fitted to delight and instruct them. The engravings are both numerous and good.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—It would be difficult to exaggerate the value as an educative influence of this excellent monthly for young readers. It is admirably adapted to their tastes. Writers who excel in addressing youth are among the regular contributors to its pages, and artists of distinction do their best to brighten it by their illustrations.

THE RELIGIOUS REVIEW OF REVIEWS. (London and New York: International News Co.)—The contents of the last-received number of this useful monthly has a varied table of contents. Its articles deal with what is most noteworthy in the religious thought and life of the time. It gives good portraits of prominent men in the various Churches. Much useful information is contained in its pages. The publication is undenominational.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—The August number is specially devoted to fiction. In addition to several good short stories, "The Wrecker," by Robert Louis Stevenson and Lloyd Osbourne, is begun. Andrew Lang contributes a characteristic paper on "Piccadilly," which is brightened by a number of realistic and finely-executed illustrations. John Wigmore concludes his paper on "Parliamentary Days in Japan." The number as a whole is well sustained.

THE METHODIST MAGAZINE. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—In descriptive papers this magazine is usually strong. The August number is no exception. Emily Laszowska-Gerard's "The Land Beyond the Forest," descriptive of Transylvanian life and scenery is continued, as well as "Round About England," and "Over the Cottian Alps." There are papers on "George Eliot," "The Epworth Leagues," "The Canadian Indian Problem," and much else in this number that will be read with interest.

THE TREASURY FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The sermons in the August number are on "Human Progress," by Dr. George B. Eager, D.D.; "God's Gospel for Man," by Dr. James Stalker, and "The Grand Co-Operation," by J. A. Broadus, D.D. There is also an expository lecture by Dr. Boland on "The Grace of Liberty." Professor Green discusses "The City of Genesis I. and II." Dr. Cuyler's Pen-Picture this month that of Dr. Alexander Maclaren. There is much in addition to features that will be found profitable and interesting to the

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The place of honour in the August number of *Harper* is assigned to a most interesting paper on "New Zealand," by G. M. Grant. The article is a valuable and indefatigable Principal of Queen's University accomplishes an immense amount of work and does it well. His paper on New Zealand is admirably written. Dr. Andrew Wilson discusses the question, "What is Inheritance?" Other papers of decided interest are: "Glimpses of Western Architecture—Chicago," "Lord Byron's School Days," by Professor W. G. Blaikie; "Nihilists in Paris," "The Vigilantes of California, Idaho and Montana," and Walter Besant's "London—Plantagenet—Ecclesiastical." The number is one of decided strength and attractiveness.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The August *Century* is in keeping with the season. There are no papers in it which, even in the heated term, it would be a weariness to read. More than usual space is given to short stories, of which there are several of decided excellence. This time there are virtually two frontispieces to the number, being full page portraits of the Emperor and Empress of Germany. Of the august Teutonic potentate there is a highly eulogistic estimate by Poultney Bigelow, who gives "A Sketch of the First Three Years of His Reign." Other papers of interest are "On the Study of Tennyson," "The Press as a News Gatherer," by the Manager of the Associated Press; "Life on the South Shoal Light-Ship," "Play in Provence," "On Summer Migration," and "Cape Horn and Co-Operative Mining in '49." There is more than the usual quantity of poetry, and its quality is excellent. The illustrations, given with lavish hand, are very attractive and skilfully executed, one in particular, "Le Crepuscule," deserving special mention.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The *Atlantic Monthly* for August has two notable features besides the serial stories by Mrs. Catherwood and Mr. Stockton. Henry James contributes an admirable short story entitled "The Marriages," which will delight his army of admirers; and Mr. John C. Ropes, who is peculiarly strong in writing on military subjects, has an excellent paper on General Sherman, awarding him great but not indiscriminating praise. Edith M. Thomas writes exquisite "Notes from the Wild Garden," sprinkling some beautiful little poems on special flowers among prose descriptions and reflections hardly less poetical; Olive Thorne Miller in "Two Little Drummers" treats in her usual fresh style the yellow-bellied woodpecker and the red-headed woodpecker; Miss Harriet Waters Preston and Miss Louise Dodge, under the title of "A Disputed Correspondence," discuss wisely and delightfully the letters which are said to have passed between Seneca and the Apostle Paul; Wendell P. Garrison has a political article of real value on the Reform of the United States Senate; Agnes Repplier contributes a bright paper on "The Oppression of Notes," and W. D. McCrackan describes effectively "Six Centuries of Self-Government" in Switzerland. There are excellent reviews of the Life of Browning and the Memoir of John Murray, with poems, notes on new books, and the Contributors' Club.