

The Rev. H. H. Bedford-Jones read an interesting paper on the "Message of Amos" in which he showed the bearing of the Prophets upon the problems of to-day, and demonstrated the value of critical methods in the study of these inspired writers.

Papers were also read by Rev. Professor Sage, of London, on the "Teaching Office of the Church" with reference to "Bible Classes" and by Rev. Dr. Ker, of Montreal, on the same subject, with reference to the "Mid-week service."

At the public missionary meeting held on Tuesday night, stirring addresses were given by Rev. J. G. Waller and the Lord Bishop of Huron. At the close of the meeting the Provost announced that the church recently erected at Nagano, had been paid for and urged the necessity of building a church during the coming year for Mr. Kennedy, in Matsumoto. Several of those present volunteered to collect money for this purpose. In this way \$700 has been guaranteed, and Mr. Kennedy may hope to soon see a suitable church built in which to hold his services.

On the last evening of the gathering an open meeting was held in the dining hall for the purpose of discussing the relation of the Kingdom of God to social problems. The principal speakers were Rev. R. J. Moore, Rev. G. H. Broughall, Rev. H. Symonds and Rev. Dr. Ker.

Before the meeting closed a very hearty vote of thanks was tendered the Venerable Archdeacon Houston for acting as chairman throughout the gathering.

Book Reviews.

THE RED AXE, by S. R. Crockett, author of "The Gray Man," "Lochinvar," with twenty-six illustrations by Frank Richards. Price, paper, 75 cents; cloth, \$1.50. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., 1898.

The Red Axe is, we hear, to be stayed. We are not surprised. It is extraordinarily vivid. Scene after scene stands out in the mind of the reader as he looks back over this tangled tale of love, rapine and intrigue in the days of the German robber Dukes, when the law of might was the law of right.

Mr. Crockett in this story has left his dialect behind at home. The story which moves somewhat slowly at first, but always pleasantly, at last quickens in movement and interest, and ends with a fine climax where the fate of hero and heroine hangs in the balances, which are held in the hands of the emerald-eyed maiden, who, swayed by love and jealousy, knows not what to do. Was she woman or was she tiger? This interesting story has something of the same freshness which characterized *The Pride of Jennico*, but it has one great point of superiority, *The Red Axe* begins early and moves steadily towards the climax of interest, whereas the first part of *Jennico* was the best. But both are good stories and well told.

A ROMANY OF THE SNOWS, by Gilbert Parker, D.C.L. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., 1898.

This volume of short stories was published in England under the title, "An Adventurer of the North." It is a continuation of personal histories of "Pierre and his People" and contains the "last existing records of pretty Pierre." We hope not. Pierre, like Sherlock Holmes, ought not to be allowed to die. In Pierre's case there is just a chance that he may turn up again. For he is not rolled over a precipice, but is last seen riding madly before pursuers into a surf of fire. He was not alone, and no reader of "Pierre and his People" needs to be told that it

was a woman he was trying to succour. We hope he succeeded.

These stories, like those in the earlier volume, are not all equal, but all are enjoyable, and we can promise several pleasant half-hours to any one who has still to make their acquaintance. In some respects "Pierre and his People," and its sequel, contain the most unique as well as the most interesting work that Mr. Gilbert Parker has done. At any rate, those who enjoy the works of this writer, and they are many, have a very soft spot in their hearts for Pretty Pierre.

VICTORIAN ERA SERIES.

ENGLISH NATIONAL EDUCATION, by H. Holman, M.A. London: Blackie. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., 1898.

This is the seventh volume of the *Victorian Era Series*, and it is worthy of the series in which it takes its place. We have here a sketch of the rise of public elementary schools in England. It is written by one who is an enthusiastic believer in State schools. Indeed the impression which this treatise leaves on the mind of the reader is that it is the business of the State, and not of any other organization within the State, to look after the education of the people. This is not necessarily to advocate a secular system of education. But it means that in any other hands than those of the State, the standard of elementary education is apt to fall. It thus becomes the business of the churches to agree upon what religious teaching should be given. Provision should be made, as there is in England, for making government grants to "Voluntary Schools" if they come up to the government standards in equipment and efficiency. But this is not the view of Mr. Holman.

The titles of his chapters will but indicate the scope and trend of the book. The reign of the voluntary system the days of doles, the committee of council on education, a semi-state system, Codes and cram, the partial reign of law, Retrospect and Prospect. In fact this work outlines the struggle in England over the question as to whether the churches or the State should undertake the work of elementary education. What the Churches did, the State now largely does. The story of this contest has its interest for us and contains many morals. This is a work to be read by all advocates of voluntary schools.

Athletic.

A new proposition has been made by University of Toronto with regard to Inter-collegiate athletics, which should find favour in all the colleges in the Dominion where there is a desire to foster Inter-collegiate sport.

The proposal is that a union be formed for the development of field athletics among the colleges of Canada; it has been suggested that there be a meet either once or twice a year, in which competitors from all the colleges in the union may enter; also that each college pay an annual fee of ten dollars to defray, first, the expenses of the meet, and secondly, part of the travelling expenses of the competitors.

In connection with this, University of Toronto is holding communication with McGill, Queen's, McMaster, Osgoode and ourselves.

Mr. Griffith has been instructed by our executive to write to them, expressing our warm approval of the plan, and our willingness to enter the union, though, at present, there seems but little chance of any of our men being able to compete this year.

Two years ago, mainly by the efforts of Trinity, an inter-club meet of this kind took place, in which we failed to