

tude for those who have laboured in Christ's service in the past need not blind us to His gifts in the present or dull our vision so that we are unable to discern the brilliant promise of the future. There is a tendency to discredit the quality of the present-day ministry, but such pessimism savours of ingratitude and may fairly be regarded as a dimness of discernment. Should there be among the visitors to the Council meetings those who entertain the idea that occupants of the present-day pulpit fail to reach the high standard of an earlier time, they have good reason to revise their ready-made judgments. All of the papers yet read at the meetings of the Council have been the product of earnest and thoughtful minds, the matured utterances of highly cultured intellect, evidencing a force and grasp it would be difficult to surpass. The people who are in the habit of thinking that talent and scholarship are seeking other spheres for their exercise than in the service of Christianity are to a certain extent mistaken. The papers read by Professors Lindsay, of Glasgow; Bavinck, of Kampen, and Leitch, of Belfast, on the nature, characteristics and results of the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century were masterly expositions of the great truths that mighty religious, moral and intellectual movement brought to the attention of the nations. These papers alone, not to speak of the other proceedings of the Council, are sufficient to make the Toron meeting memorable.

Another feature of a peculiarly pleasing character in connection with first week's proceedings of the Council is the exceptionally able manner in which its business has been conducted. Much of the credit of this is undoubtedly due to the business abilities of the Executive. These are all men not only of great experience, unmistakable talent, but also of sanctified common sense. There may have been slight differences of opinion, but nothing approaching to friction has made itself visible. A spirit of cordial unanimity has been apparent in all the proceedings thus far, and there are no indications that it will be otherwise till the close is reached and the final benediction pronounced. The meetings have been grand throughout. The key note was struck in the able and suitable sermon by Principal Caven at the beginning, and all the subsequent proceedings have been in the same exalted strain. In proof of the interest awakened by the Council every session has been largely attended by people belonging to the Toronto Churches, and these have by no means been confined to the Presbyterian population. Ministers and members of other communions in considerable numbers have been present. From all over Ontario ministers and people have come to see and hear the distinguished men, many of whose names are household words in Presbyterian circles on both sides of the Atlantic, and have attended session after session with undiminished interest. It may without the slightest exaggeration be said, that were the Presbyterian ministers and elders in attendance on the Council summoned to meet in another Church they could at once, without difficulty, constitute a large and efficient General Assembly of their own. Those who attended the evening meetings, when the secular business of the day was over, completely filled the spacious church in which they were held. This interest culminated on Friday evening, when not only was Cooke's Church filled to overflowing, but the largest Presbyterian Mother Church of Toronto, Knox, was also filled to hear the admirable addresses of the distinguished Foreign Missionaries who are delegates to the Council. The first week's proceedings will be long and gratefully remembered by all who were privileged to be present.

THE ALLIANCE AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

THE missionary spirit now more fully pervading all sections of the Christian Church than at any time since the apostolic age is shared by the one whose prominent representatives are now assembled here. An entire day was devoted to the consideration of the subject. Friday was Foreign Mission day. The papers read discussed in thoughtful and earnest fashion the various aspects of foreign mission work. The Alliance has already done much in helping forward the concentration of missionary effort in several foreign fields. It will continue its efforts in this direction, and the hope may be confidently entertained that before another Council is held a larger measure of unity will be attained. No delegate uttered a single word in defence of denomina-

tionalism in the foreign mission field, all who did speak deprecated in strong terms the perpetuation of divisions among converts from heathenism to whom these divisions could have no meaning and no adequate reason for existence. The encouragement of a native ministry and the development of native Churches were approved of with the greatest apparent unanimity.

The dual popular missionary meetings on Friday evening were inspiring. It was an event of no ordinary interest to look upon the venerable form and hear the earnest words of the veteran missionary who has laboured long and faithfully in the New Hebrides, Dr. J. G. Paton. Next in interest came Dr. Laws of the Livingstonia Mission, with a graphic delineation of the educational, medical, industrial and evangelistic work in which he is engaged. The other speakers, Dr. McKichan of Bombay, our Canadian missionary, Rev. W. A. Wilson, Dr. Mateer and Dr. Cousland, all of them men of marked ability and devotedness, acquitted themselves well. The addresses of these brethren in the various churches will give a powerful impulse to more active and enlarged effort on the part of Canadian congregations. They will be encouraged to devise liberal things and realize more fully the responsibility resting on them to help in carrying out the parting commission given to His Church by the risen Saviour.

FRAATERNAL GREETINGS.

DURING last week the Anglican Provincial Synod and the Presbyterian Council were in simultaneous session. One question is peculiarly interesting to Presbyterians. In the Synod at Montreal the following motion was proposed: "That the prolocutor be requested to nominate a committee of this house, consisting of equal numbers of lay and clerical members, to convey our greetings and the expression of our good will to the Moderator and members of the Pan-Presbyterian Council, now in session in the city of Toronto." Had this fine expression of Christian brotherly kindness met with the approval of the Synod, and had the delegates suggested been appointed to convey the fraternal greetings of the Anglican communion to the Council in Toronto, they would have met with such a reception as would have gladdened their hearts. This fine exemplification of Christian courtesy embodied in the resolution was, however, too much for the Episcopal brethren whose predilections are all too favourable to the ritualistic opinions now becoming so prevalent in the Anglican Church. Sacerdotal exclusiveness found a straightforward interpreter in Dr. Langtry, the minister of St. Luke's Church, this city. He has his supporters among the clergy and people of his own communion, but people are saying harsh and ungracious things concerning his recent utterances in this connection. There is, however, a sense in which he is deserving of credit for what he said. When a man is in a hopeless minority it requires no ordinary degree of courage to say disagreeable things. This courage Dr. Langtry possesses, and he is justly entitled to the sort of esteem it deserves. Besides, the learned incumbent of St. Luke's, Toronto, spoke out his belief in open, manly fashion. He lets us know precisely how he stands. There can be no mistaking his opinion. He is reported as saying that he was opposed to the adoption of such a motion "because it might be interpreted as in favour of the prosperity and growth of Presbyterianism. He said that on the other hand he would be very sorry to see Presbyterianism growing or prospering. The only prosperity he could wish them was that they might unite again as soon as possible with the Apostolic Church." If proof were needed—and it is only too abundant—High Churchism has not only a chilling tendency on the hearts of its votaries, freezing out that divine charity which should inspire the servants of the King and Head of the Church universal, but a blinding effect on the intellect even of men of education and culture. Were not this the case, Dr. Langtry's better judgment would have prevented his putting himself on record in such terms. Well, he is entitled to his opinion, and it is not apparent that his sorrow will be mitigated for some time to come, for the fact remains that Presbyterianism is growing and prospering, and that its inherent vitality gives no indication of diminution. It is pleasing to notice that the modified resolution was received and responded to by the Presbyterian Council in a spirit of Christian cordiality, which happily will be fully appreciated by many of the ministers and people of the Church in which Dr. Langtry is a peculiar ornament.

Books and Magazines.

THE valuable library of the late Dr. Kuenen, of Leyden, Holland, is announced for sale by his family in lots to suit purchasers.

THE Rev. John Wright, D.D., has prepared a biographical account of the "Early Bibles of America," which Thomas Whittaker will publish this week.

PROFESSOR HJALMAR HJORTH BOYESEN'S "Essays in German Literature," dealing with Goethe, Schiller, the development of the German novel, etc., was published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, of London, early this month.

THE Germans, as well as the Norwegians, have been revising their version of the Bible. It has been in preparation since 1842, and the ablest Norwegian scholars have participated in it. An edition of the revision is now being published in Minneapolis.

THE revision of the Luther Bible is by no means exciting the interest of the Germans that the revision of the King James edition did in England and America. Of the 26,000 copies published by the Canstein Bible Society of Halle, only about one-half have been sold.

THE group of portraits from the studio of the Messrs. Notman & Son, Bleury Street, Montreal, is a triumph of photographic art. The portraits are artistically arranged, and each one is excellent and at once recognizable. There is not a single imperfect or indistinct likeness in the whole picture. It forms a permanent memento of the General Assembly of 1892, held in Montreal.

MISS SARA JEANNETTE DUNCAN'S "Simple Adventures of Mem Sahib" will be published in London by Chatto & Windus. Before appearing in book form it is to be issued serially in the *Lady's Pictorial*. Miss Duncan, by the way, has given up her home in India, and returned to Canada. The hot climate did not agree with a constitution accustomed to the rigours of the Canadian winters.

TWO new volumes have just been added to the dainty Cameo Series issued by the Scribners. They are Dr. J. G. Holland's "Bitter Sweet" and "Kathrina." They will each contain an etching frontispiece, and will be printed and bound in attractive style uniform with Ik Marvel's "Reveries of a Bachelor," and "Dream Life," Cable's "Old Creole Days," and Page's "In Old Virginia," already issued in the series.

THE LILY OF WOMANHOOD. A sermon to young women. By Rev. Robert A. Holland, S. T. D. (New York: Thomas Whittaker.)—The author of this very fine discourse says in his dedication, "Some young women of my congregation asked me recently for a sermon which they could understand and enjoy—a flower sermon." This discourse on the Lily of Womanhood was my response, and I now dedicate it to them in the hope that they will wear its truths as the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. The text is, "All generations shall call me blessed." It is now published for general circulation in neat white covers at a nominal charge.

FROM the Williamson Book Company, Limited, we have received the announcement that they are prepared to furnish the complete works of the late President of Toronto University, Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D., F.R.S.E., comprising "Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time," "Chatterton, a Biographical Study," "Left-Handedness," "Pre-historic Men," "Pre-historic Annals of Scotland," "Caliban" and "Reminiscences of Old Edinburgh." The same firm also announces the later works of Professor Goldwin Smith: "The Moral Crusader, William Lloyd Garrison," "A Trip to England," second revised edition, and "Canada and the Canadian Question." This publishing house has also a supply of the excellent series of the Church of Scotland Guild and Bible Class Text Books, edited by Professor Charteris, of Edinburgh University, and the Rev. J. A. McClymont, B.D., Aberdeen. Two of the authors of these text-books are delegates to the Council of the Alliance, and are at present in Toronto, the Rev. Mr. McClymont and Rev. Pearson McAdam Muir, of Edinburgh. The former writes a clear and condensed view of "The New Testament and its Writers," and the latter an admirable little volume, "The Church of Scotland, a Sketch of its History." Other valuable volumes in the series are "Handbook of Christian Evidences," by Alexander Stewart, D.D., Professor of Systematic Theology in Aberdeen University, and "Life and Conduct," by J. Cameron Lees, D.D., LL.D., Edinburgh.

SHORT HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA, from the earliest to present time. By Wm. Gregg, A.M., D.D., Professor of Church History, Knox College. (Toronto: Printed for the Author.)—The neat, modest and concise preface that introduces the reader to this admirable compend of Canadian Church History contains a statement that all who know Dr. Gregg and who have read his previous historical volume will read with regret and fondly hope it will be otherwise. He says, "A few years ago the author of the present 'Short History' published a large volume containing the history of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, brought down to the year 1834. He intended to publish one or two similar volumes bringing down the history to a later time. This purpose, however, he will, very probably, not be able to accomplish." It is sometimes said that ministers cannot condense. This "Short History" affords an instance in which the art of condensation is achieved to perfection. It contains all that is essential to a succinct general survey of Presbyterian history in British North America. Nothing of importance has been omitted, and the narrative, like a clear, limpid stream, flows steadily and smoothly onward. It traces the rise of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, chronicles its leading events in connected form, bringing the narrative down to the present day. It is a capital book for reference, for careful accuracy is apparent on every page. Above all, it will give youthful readers an intelligent conception of one of the great religious denominations that has exercised a marked influence on the thought and life of Canada. It certainly ought to be in every Presbyterian family in the Dominion. Nor need it be confined to those belonging to the denomination whose history it relates. Intelligent Canadians generally will find in its pages a lucid view of what Presbyterianism is and what it has achieved. Its accomplished author is warmly attached to the Church whose best interests he has spent his life in promoting, but, imbued as he is by the true Christian spirit, he is in thorough sympathy with evangelical Christianity.