

good and through evil report. It may be popular or it may be the reverse, but the believers in the rectitude of their principle must remain undaunted if they are in due time to achieve success.

The efforts of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are not by any means confined to the extension of a healthy temperance opinion, and to prepare the way for more stringent legislative enactments for the suppression of the liquor traffic. They are doing a large amount of excellent and effective philanthropic work which entitles them to hearty commendation. They have adopted what is known as the White Cross Movement. In one of the resolutions passed at their last annual meeting they say: That as we hold men and women to the same social standard of purity; we observe with gratitude the progress of the White Cross Movement. We pledge ourselves to endeavour to elevate opinion respecting its equal obligation upon men and women, and to secure a proper recognition of the precept, "Keep thyself pure" on the part of the individual, the family and the nation. Without specified local reference—and these things are not confined to any one locality—it must press itself on public attention that energetic measures ought to be immediately taken to stamp out with unflinching vigour that debasing depravity that is being from time to time disclosed. There was evident need for the bill which Mr. Charlton had such difficulty in getting on the Statute Book.

Efforts, with excellent results accompanying, are made by the society to promote Temperance with educational and religious work. It is the praiseworthy effort of the Union to throw around the young all possible safeguards, in the home, the school, the Church and in amusements. They have endeavoured to do something for soldiers and sailors, for railway employes, and for prisoners in gaols, as well as the more critical time when they receive their discharge. One reason why the Union has been growing in strength from year to year is, that it combines the possible and the actual, the speculative with the practical, working steadily for a definite end, and doing all the practical good it can meanwhile; in this latter, at least, it is affording a good example of applied Christianity.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE special work of the Young Men's Christian Association is now almost universally appreciated. It has fully gained the confidence of the Churches, which it only succeeded in doing after a lengthened period. Rightly or wrongly, there was a rather general impression that it tended to promote a spirit of rivalry, if not in some directions a spirit of disparagement and antagonism to, the ordinary methods of Church work. Discreet management and cordial co-operation with the Churches have done much to allay the feeling of hostility that existed in some centres against the special efforts in behalf of young men in which it was the chief aim of the Y.M.C.A. to engage. It is well that such growing cordiality is apparent. The class on whose behalf the associations work is very important, both in the Church and in the community. There ought to be no rivalry, and there need be none, in seeking to promote the moral and spiritual well-being of a class who are the hope of the Church, as they are the hope of their country. These associations have also succeeded in gaining the respect of the community in which they labour. The time has gone by when they were sneered at as well-meaning but soft-headed weaklings. The sincerity of their motives, their well-directed methods, and the incalculable amount of good they have been the means of accomplishing are now generally recognized.

In some instances there has been an effort to confine the work of young men's associations to what may be called strictly spiritual work, while others have advocated in their behalf a broader and more general field of usefulness. If this now powerful Christian agency is to effect the greatest possible good for the greatest possible number, it cannot afford to be trammelled by the dominance of any one party. It must be broad, liberal and comprehensive. As to the amusements permitted and the classes formed, the more fully to equip young men for their life struggle, there is not much room to doubt that the more comprehensive plan is the wise one. The Christianity that does not contemplate the benefit of man's entire nature is incomplete. Young men

need and crave for a certain degree of amusement. If they do not find it within the walls of the association they will seek it without. How many of our popular amusements become direct avenues to the wiles of the tempter! Better far provide innocent and harmless amusements, in places where the associations are clean and healthy, than by purposed neglect permit the young men to seek recreation amid circumstances that are positively hurtful.

The convention held last week in Toronto not only attended to the despatch of the special business for which they were convened; they enjoyed the benefit of addresses and papers by men in full sympathy with the objects of the association, and who, from their ability and experience, were able to present important truths and to give valuable counsel. The address of Dr. Kellogg may be instanced as an example. Many of the delegates were animated by the desire to do all the good they could as occasion offered. They visited Sabbath schools, mission churches, and held special evangelistic meetings, where their fervent and earnest words were listened to with deep and general interest. In coming to the convention these faithful and enthusiastic workers both gave and received much good. The great cause in which they are engaged has received a fresh impetus, and they carry with them to their respective spheres of effort a heightened motive to labour in the Master's name for the benefit of those whose needs and possibilities entitle them to the prayers and the well-wishes of all true Christian hearts.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—With unflinching regularity this valuable weekly comes freighted with the best and choicest literature of the day.

OUR LITTLE FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This monthly, for little readers, maintains its well-earned reputation, both literary and artistic.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—For useful, instructive and entertaining reading, enhanced by numerous and fine illustrations, this favourite weekly cannot be surpassed.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL. (Kingston.)—There has been a manifest advance in academic journalism during this session, and the worthy representative of Queen's is no exception. The number for this month is bright, versatile and highly meritorious.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—One of the many attractive features of *St. Nicholas* is the great variety of interesting subjects it places every month before its readers. Story, tale, poem, essay, solid sense, and sparkling fun, mingle in its handsomely illustrated pages.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—*Harper's* is unusually attractive this month. The subjects selected for treatment in its pages, both literary and artistic, range over a wide and varied field. Felix Buhot, the French artist, furnishes the theme for a finely-illustrated paper. C. H. Farnham supplies an interesting paper on Quebec, illustrated by sketches from Canadian and other artists. Besides a number of richly-illustrated descriptive papers, questions of political and economic interest are ably discussed. Serials, short stories, poems and the usual departments add their charm to a number of great excellence.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The February issue of the *Century* is most attractive. The subjects treated are not only varied, but are of great popular interest. J. Russell Lowell has an admirable paper on "Walter Savage Landor," George Kennan's Russian papers are of thrilling interest and give the reader a clear insight into the strange seething mass of discontent in the Czar's dominions. The Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley, editor of the *Christian Advocate*, adds to his papers on the Mind-Cure and similar phenomena, a curious study of "Astrology, Divination and Coincidence." Dr. Buckley may fairly be said to have done a great public service by his expositions of current frauds and hallucinations in this field. The strong serials by several of the ablest American novelists are continued, as well as the Lincoln history. The *Century* maintains the high position to which its great merit entitles it.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

TESTIMONIES TO CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

The English Vice-Consul at the Cameroons, in West Africa, in a paper on "British Missions and Missionaries in Africa," says, in the November number of the *Nineteenth Century*:

"If the immediate success of British missionaries in spreading their religion over barbarous Africa be doubtful, if the average type of their converts seem an unsatisfactory product of so much labour and expenditure of lives and wealth, it is, on the other hand, consoling to reflect on the immense services which missionary enterprise has rendered to Africa, to the world at large, and to Great Britain in particular. When the history of the great African States of the future comes to be written, the arrival of the first missionary will, with many of these new nations, be the first historical event in their annals. Almost invariably it has been to British missionaries that the natives of interior Africa have owed their first acquaintance with the printing press, the steamboat and saw-mill. Most of the great lakes and rivers of this little-known continent, have been navigated in the first instance by the steamers of British missionary societies, which may now be seen plying on Tanganyika and Nyassa, on the Upper Congo, the Niger, Benue and Zambesi. Missionary enterprise has widely increased the bounds of our knowledge, and been the means of conferring benefits on science. For missionary enterprise in the future I see a great sphere of usefulness."

The *Spectator* also, which shows remarkable intelligence in treating missionary questions, in a paper on "The New Attack on Missionaries," says:

"At an expense of about a million a year, the Protestant Churches send out to the heathen and parts of the Mussulman world, a perpetually renewed force of men and women, to teach to those who know them not, Christianity and civilization. Those men and women are of all sorts, some unfit, one or two in a thousand hopelessly unfit—bad persons in short—a few fit to a degree no words of ours will adequately describe, but a majority well qualified in extremely varied ways for the burdensome duty they have to perform. Many are teachers, many preachers—many scholars—many, like Dr. Moffat, born rulers of men; but in all but a very few there is one quality rare in any other profession—absolute devotion to the work to be done. If they can do it living as quiet, hard-working pastors in the tropics, they do it so. If it requires of them excessive toil, abstinence from all that is pleasant to man, the incessant facing of physical danger, including what is a moral certainty of death by torture, they accept these conditions, not boasting, not murmuring, as part of the burdens their consciences have placed upon their necks. How it is possible for Christians of any sect to condemn such a profession, with such results, we can no more conceive than we can conceive how a Christian Church can be fully alive, yet never wish to proselytize."

IN Greece, the Government permits the free distribution of the Scriptures and protects the colporteurs. The Gospels in the original (old) Greek are used as a reading book in the higher classes of the primary schools.

IN the capital of Madagascar the Protestant school has 2,387 pupils. The queen recently attended the opening service of two Christian churches at Abokimanaga. In fourteen years 709 Protestant chapels have been built, making the number now 1,200. There are 8,300 Protestant communicants, and all the Churches are self-supporting.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

—The annual report of this prosperous Home Company appears in another column, and a most satisfactory exhibit it is. Building up business upon a solid and safe basis has been the unceasing aim of the gentlemen who control its affairs. These gentlemen are well known in the community for business capacity and integrity, and with the H. M. Alexander Mackenzie, the president, giving personal attention daily to the company's interests, there is abundant reason for the fact that the public place implicit confidence in its ability, its management and its dealings with policyholders. Special attention is called to the remarks made by the president in moving the adoption of the report, as the salient points in the revenue account and balance sheet are there stated with the lucid clearness by which his utterances are usually distinguished.