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Contents.

EDITORIAL.	Short Pieces.	4 and 7
Paraphrase.	The Holy Spirit.	1
Book Notices.	B. Y. P. U. Daily Readings.	1
The Resurrection.	S. L. C. Lesson 30.—The	4
The Gospel at Antioch.	Holy Spirit's Relation	4
Notes.	to God and Man.	7
CONTRIBUTED.	FOREIGN MISSIONS.	
Women in Politics (J. D.).	W. B. M. I.	6
Lady Aberdeen in Chicago.	The F. M. Board.	8
(A. McL.).	THE HOME.	10
Interpreted.	THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.	10
That Indebtedness (G. O. G.).	Lesson 4.—Peter Delivered	11
Mr. Gale at Wolfville.	from Prison.	11
N. B. Home Missions.	From the Churches.	12
SELECTED.	Marriages and Deaths.	13
The Power of His Resurrec-	The Farm.	15
tion.	News Summary.	14 and 15
STORY PAGE.	Quarterly Meeting.	13
How Duty Helped.	Notices.	13
Fearless and Honest.		

During the past week there has been fighting between Turkish and Greek troops on the frontier, but whether there is an actual condition of war between the two countries can hardly at present writing be determined. Up to the present there has not been, so far as the despatches have informed us, any formal declaration of war on the part of either nation, but matters appear to have been gradually tending toward a position from which war will be the only issue. There is still talk that the powers are about to blockade the Greek ports, but it is at least doubtful whether they will agree to such action, so long as Greece refrains from attacking Turkey, but if the two nations go to war it is likely that the ports of both will be blockaded by the fleets of the powers. April 6th was observed as the anniversary of Greek independence, and the popular excitement attending the celebration in Athens and other parts of the kingdom was very great. Each of the foreign representatives at Athens has handed to the Greek minister of foreign affairs a note, intimating that in case of armed conflict on the Greece-Turkish frontier, all the responsibility will rest upon the aggressor, and that whatever results may arise from such a conflict, the powers are firmly resolved to maintain the general peace, and have decided not to allow the aggressor in any event to reap the slightest benefit from his action. A similar note has been presented by the Ambassadors at Constantinople to the Turkish Government.

The election contest for the Dominion Parliament in Champlain County, Quebec, was anticipated in political circles with a good deal of interest. The constituency has always been strongly Conservative. At the last general election, the majority of the Conservative candidate was 376. Bishop Lefebvre, who presides over the diocese of Three Rivers, in which Champlain is included, is on general principles favorable to the Conservative party, and is especially hostile to the present Government on account of its action and present position in reference to the Manitoba School question. The Government had therefore to count upon a strongly adverse clerical influence in the election. But the Bishop did not—as it had been supposed he might do—carry his opposition to the Government so far as to lay any absolute commands upon his people, or to intimate that the sacraments of the church would be withheld from those did not signify by their votes their opposition to the Manitoba settlement. This fact and the recent victories which they had won elsewhere encouraged the Government party to hope that they would also carry Champlain. In this they were disappointed, the Conservative candidate, Mr. Marcotte, being elected by a majority of about 160. The result of this contest, whatever other significance it may have, does not indicate that, even in Ultra-Montane Champlain, the people are disposed to change their party affiliations on account of the School Settlement, if not compelled thereto by extreme measures on the part of the hierarchy.

The United States Senate, having murdered the Arbitration Treaty, has laid it aside for a little until it shall be convenient to dispose of it finally. Meanwhile its friends sorrowfully view the remains and drop a tear over its fate, while they reflect upon the mutability of things in general and of United States Senators in particular, who one year wanted all things submitted to arbitration and the next are as shy of the Arbitration treaty as if it were charged with the germs of cholera or the Bubonic plague. Meanwhile the British public appears to be able to take its disappointment in regard to the treaty with philosophic tranquillity. According to Mr. I. N. Ford, London correspondent of the New York Tribune, it excites neither resentment nor interest in England. This, he says, is because "the principle is regarded as American in origin and application, and if the American Senators consider it necessary to discredit and repudiate it, Englishmen are not responsible for such vagaries of judgment. The prevailing note in such comment as appears, and there is little of it, is that England has shown herself willing to join America in setting Europe a good example and in counteracting the tendencies toward militarism, and that the failure of the treaty will be a proof that Americans do not live up to their principles, and are unable to keep step with Englishmen in the march of civilization. There may be something of what Mr. Cecil Rhodes calls 'unctuous rectitude' in English pretension elsewhere, but on the arbitration question the Salisbury Government have adapted themselves to American ideas and to the highest elements of international morality. Responsibility for the collapse of the humane and progressive policy, rests on those who are upsetting the kettle in trying to stew in their own juice."

The Dominion Parliament cannot be said to be making rapid progress with the business of the session, of which enough certainly has been forecast to engage its most close attention for some months to come. The Liberals charge the Conservatives with obstructing the business by insisting vexatiously on technicalities, while the latter charge that the Government is delaying the Tariff Bill (which, it is said, should have precedence of all other business) until the Nova Scotia elections are out of the way, for fear of the effect upon that contest which some of the provisions of the bill might have. The Senate has taken a fortnight's holiday, and on Wednesday the House of Commons will take a recess until the Tuesday after Easter. On Monday of the present week the Finance Minister is to make a definite announcement as to the time at which the Tariff Bill will be presented. On Friday Mr. McInnes, member for Victoria, B.C., moved the adjournment of the House, in order to call attention to the attitude of the Toronto Globe in reference to railway matters in British Columbia. The Globe had criticised Mr. McInnes' conduct, and made reference to certain statements of his in terms not at all complimentary. The member for Victoria appears to have answered his critic in kind, charging that certain directors of the Globe were personally concerned in railway building in British Columbia, and that the course of the Globe in this matter had been dictated by their interests. The estimates for the year ending June 30th, 1898, have been laid on the table of the House. The total is \$44,607,000, a decrease of \$223,000 as compared with last year.

The destruction of life and property by floods along the course of the Mississippi river and some of its main tributaries this spring, is said to be unprecedented in the history of the country. From St. Paul southward destruction has been caused at various points by the overflowing waters, but the most serious effects of the overflow have occurred in a district to the south of Memphis, Tenn., known as the Yazoo Delta, a triangular shaped piece of country, flanked by lines of hills, which at their southern extremity approach the river. This region, comprising a million acres of fertile land, and occupied by 200,000 people, has been completely flooded, causing an immense destruction of property and some loss of life. At various other points along the course of the Mississippi and other great streams very destructive floods have occurred, and the need of the people in the flooded districts is of course great and urgent. At the call of the President, Congress has appropriated \$200,000 for the immediate relief of the sufferers, and help will no doubt be generously and promptly afforded from many private sources.

BOOK NOTICES.

The Jesuit Relations.
TRAVELS AND EXPLORATIONS OF THE JESUIT MISSIONARIES IN NEW FRANCE. Volume IV. Acadia and Quebec 1616-1629. Cleveland: The Barrows Brothers, Publishers.
Previously issued volumes of this very valuable and interesting work have been noticed in these columns. The present volume continues and concludes Biard's Relation of 1616, showing how he and Father Quentin were sent to Virginia, where they narrowly escaped death, and were then sent to England and finally to France, where they at length arrived, after having encountered many perils. The narrative closes with a description of the native savages of New France or Canada and what had been done in the matter of giving them religious instruction. Appended to Biard's Relation is a copious index of subjects, which the student will find of great assistance. Following Biard's Relation, this volume contains five letters written by Lalemant, a Jesuit missionary, to Governor Champlain, to his (Lalemant's) general at Rome and other persons, concerning the work of the Jesuits in New France. The Jesuit mission in Acadia having been abandoned, the Jesuits had at this time, 1625-1629, at the request of the Recollet friars, gone to labor in connection with the latter in the St. Lawrence river country. One of these letters gives a brief description of the country and the climate also of the people, their customs, religious belief, clothing, etc., and describes the extent of the Canadian trade with France.

The Epistle to the Romans.
A COMMENTARY. By J. M. Stiffer, D. D. Fleming & Revell Company, Publishers. Price \$1.25.
Dr. Stiffer, who is professor of New Testament Exegesis in Crozer Theological Seminary, has given us, in this volume of 270 pages, a book which may be fairly regarded as a valuable addition to the already rich and varied exegetical literature of the New Testament. The commentary is not learned in the sense of being intelligible only to those who are familiar with Greek and with scholastic terminology. The author has not troubled his readers with discussions of the original text. He has himself, however, given much labor to the study of the epistle in the Greek and made himself familiar with the views of the ablest exegetes, he has also conducted some twenty Seminary classes through the epistle. The commentary is not therefore a superficial treatment of Paul's great letter, but seeks honestly, so far as possible, to go to the heart of the matter, to place the student at the apostle's standpoint and enable him to grasp the purpose and the meaning of the epistle. Dr. Stiffer's work will, we have no doubt, be found very helpful to a very large number of readers. It presents the results of the best scholarship and the author's own prolonged study in a form which not only the scholar but all thoughtful and studious persons can peruse with appreciation and profit.