

CHRONICLES OF STRONG CANADIANS.

Chancellor Burwash, of Victoria University, Toronto, has written one of the books of the "Makers of Canada" series; the subject being Egerton Ryerson, the noted Canadian preacher, journalist and educationist. Dr. Ryerson bore a very influential part in founding and shaping our present Ontario school system, and deserves the monument to his memory erected on the Normal School grounds, Toronto. Another monument is now built, in the book mentioned, by Chancellor Burwash, himself an ornament and a power in the Canadian Methodist church of to-day. Books like those of the "Makers of Canada" series are of no small historical importance. We Presbyterians have also our big men. The life of the late Principal Grant will soon be out; and it is to be trusted no materials relating to the lives of such men as Principal Caven and the late Principal MacVicar are being destroyed.

MILLIONS DOWN THROAT.

Germany has long been held up as a model country of "light wines and better morals." Of late years thoughtful men, scientists and moralists have been pointing out the dangerously bibulous habits of the German people. Germany is pretty thorough, and something practical may come of all the thinking, writing, and investigating. The commission appointed by the Emperor finds intoxicating liquors cost the German nation \$75,000,000, or one-eighth of all they earn. Some German writers have begged at the cost of old age insurance, but the German nation spend twenty-one times as much on drink. What a vast amount of potential usefulness and comfort is uselessly and also injuriously poured down the German throat!

The lesson for Ontario, and for Canada at large, is to deal with the drink traffic before it becomes too powerful.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER AS A WORKING FORCE, By Rev. David Gregg, D.D., Toronto: Fleming Revell Co. "If you would humble a man speak to him about his prayers." We believe that any one who reads Dr. Gregg's book with an applying conscience will be humbled. Dr. Gregg tells of an experience in the Presbytery of New York. The ministers were met to discuss measures to promote a revival. One of the members proposed a frank confession as to prayer. All who spent thirty minutes a day praying with God were asked to hold up their hands. Only one hand went up. When the question dropped to five minutes all hands went up. This was a revelation and followed by an humble resolution to spend more time in using prayer as a working force. This book will raise many questions as to the neglect of the great duty of prayer. The style is clear. The argument forceful. It contains five chapters. Individual prayer as a working force. (1) In the life of Abraham. (2) In the life of the Master. (3) In the life of Paul. (4) In the life of the Church. (5) In the life and fellowship of believers Christ and Christians. The book is exceedingly stimulating and suggestive.

OTTAWA LADIES' COLLEGE.

The Ottawa Ladies' College has the distinction of being the only institution of the kind under the direct control of the Presbyterian church in Canada. It is therefore peculiarly gratifying to learn that it is in a flourishing condition with a large and satisfactory attendance.

The influence for good of such schools is far reaching and has scarcely yet been appreciated by our church. If the mothers in Israel are strong, intelligent Christian women—the home life, and the church life are secure.

No better training could be given to prepare our girls for Christ and usefulness than that provided for in the College. The higher branches of culture deemed essential to a young lady's education are given under the most wholesome conditions.

The Canadian Conservatory of Music has proved a great boon to the pupils of the College. Mrs. Ross who for several years has rendered efficient service as lady principal has intimated her intention to retire at the close of the session. The Board are seeking for a lady of education and refinement to fill this position. They are making inquiries both in Canada and the Old Country.

An Appeal.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Board of French Evangelization held yesterday a statement from the treasurer, Rev. Dr. Warden, showed the receipts for the ordinary French Evangelization Fund to be \$1,449.72 less than at this date last year, and that \$12,000 must be received before the 28th inst. to close the year without debt.

The executive laid it upon me to issue an appeal at once. And I do so, believing that all that is necessary is to let the facts be known to the many friends of the good cause to awaken their interest and call forth their help. The work is the Lord's and the money to sustain it is His also. A small contribution from many sent direct to the treasurer at Toronto will be sufficient. The time is short and the call urgent.

A. J. MOWATT, chairman.

Montreal, Feb. 2, 1904.

Attention is directed to the statement furnished at the twenty-third annual meeting of the North American Life Assurance company. The past year appears to have been the best in the history of this well managed institution, the new insurance effected amounting to the magnificent sum of \$5,834,890.00. The Board, as will be noticed, is composed of solid professional and business men; while in Mr. L. G. Idman, A. I. C., so long connected with the company as secretary, they have a most efficient managing director.

The opening article in the January Harper's Magazine. (Harper and Brothers, New York), is by Ernest Rhys on Shakespeare's Richard III, with three excellent pictures by Abbey. Professor Lounsbury discusses the question. Is English Becoming Corrupt. and Professor Rutherford, of McGill University, Montreal, has a short article on Disintegration of the Radioactive Elements. In the way of fiction we have such names as Van Tassel Sutphen, Maud Stepany Rawson, Arthur Colton, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, and Elizabeth S. Phelps Ward, to promise us a wealth of good reading.

CONFIRMS ACCURACY OF BIBLE.

Rev. Prof. Murison of Toronto University, has been lecturing on the Old Testament and Recent Discoveries; and in the course of an hour's talk, contrived to give a vivid panoramic picture of the civilization of Bible times touching lightly on the various epochs from the days of Abraham to those of Daniel. He showed that the people of those early times were much further advanced than is generally supposed. Back in the age to which Abraham belonged, there was a good system of education, regular banking was carried on, business transactions were carefully recorded in writing, a postal system had been established, and many other conveniences supposed to be modern were in use. Even bribery and corruption were not unknown, and it was on record that the workmen on one of the pyramids had gone on strike three times in six months. A code of civil laws dating fifteen hundred years before Moses had been found which compared very favourably in many respects with the laws of modern times. Women were almost as free then as now, if not quite so, holding property in their own right and engaging in business in their own behalf. Slaves were better treated and had more rights under the laws of those early days than they subsequently had under Christian institutions. Art, astronomy, arithmetic, and nearly all branches of learning were studied, and a fair degree of proficiency had been attained in most of them. The remains and records of this ancient people which were now being unearthed, all tended to confirm the accuracy of the Bible.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Mr. Joseph Henderson, Convenor, makes the following appeal:

According to the statement last published, the receipts for Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Western Section, are upwards of Five hundred dollars behind what they were at the corresponding date a year ago.

As many of our larger congregations are now deciding on the allocation of the money collected during the past year, I take the liberty of reminding them of the claims of this scheme of the church. At the present time, there are 126 widows and 66 orphans connected with the fund, many of them dependent in large measure upon the income which they derive from it. The number of annuitants has increased during the year, so that the expenditure will be about Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in excess of last year.

The Agent of the Church is making an effort to raise specially from Three to Four thousand dollars to make good a shortage.

In former years, quite a number of congregations have not contributed to this Fund. Where a contribution has not been forwarded for the current year, may I ask every minister and session to arrange that a special offering be made up on behalf of the Fund during the month of February, and forwarded to Dr. Warden, before the books close for the year, on February 28th.