

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

CANADIAN MONTHLY. A fairly average number. THE NATIONAL REPOSITORY, May, 1880.—(Cincinnati).

GOOD COMPANY for May.—A very good number of a very readable publication.

THE BAPTIST REVIEW, April, May, and June. (Cincinnati).—A very good number.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for May.—Good as usual, having something for almost every one.

THE GOSPEL IN ALL LANDS. (J. Young, Toronto.)—The number for April takes special notice of Japan and the mission work which has been done there. The publication is an exceedingly useful one and cannot fail greatly to increase an intelligent interest in the work of missions.

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY for May, 1880 (I. K. Funk & Co., New York) contains as usual a large amount of matter which can greatly help, while it can scarcely hinder, if judiciously used, in preparation for the pulpit, while it affords profitable reading to those who may not need to think of anything but personal edification.

THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW for May. (A. S. Barnes, New York).—We have seen better numbers of the "International" than this one. Still there is a good deal in it which is both interesting and useful. There are two very appreciative personal sketches, one of Wendell Holmes and the other of Victor Emmanuel, a paper on the abuse of the ballot and its remedy, etc.

THE LOGIC OF CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE, by G. F. Wright (Andover. Warren F. Draper.) An interesting and able book on the "evidences." Part First treats of the Principles of Induction, and Part Second of Theism and Christianity. The author's aim "is to bring into one view both the external and internal evidences of Christianity as they now stand, and as they appear when compared with the evidences upon which the beliefs of science are based.

THE STANDARD SERIES of cheap re-publications by I. K. Funk & Co., New York, still goes on, putting within reach of almost every one really valuable books which hitherto have been far too expensive to be purchased by the great mass of book readers. Ruskin's "Fors Clavigera," full of good advice to workmen and labourers, can be had for thirty cents instead of \$2 as hitherto. Rowland Hill's life, with many of the good man's quaint pulpit sayings and characteristic anecdotes, for fifteen cents, and so on in correspondence.

ALASKA, AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. By Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.) We have all been so in the habit of thinking of Alaska as the most desolate and forsaken region imaginable, that Dr. Jackson's statements to the contrary will take his readers by surprise, and may even in some cases provoke to something like scepticism. He is convinced that it will by and by be regarded as one of the most valuable portions of the United States, and that instead of the seven millions of dollars expended on its purchase being looked on as so much money thrown away, the bargain will be regarded as the best even a Yankee ever made. The narrative of mission work given is a very interesting one, and, in short, one rises from the perusal of this book with a far different idea of Alaska and its resources than ever he had before, and one greatly more favourable. The degradation of the natives seems nearly as great as it well can be, and the success of the missionary work among them as gratifying as to some it may be surprising.

WILLIAM E. DODGE, the New York merchant and philanthropist, not long ago related the following: "A prominent New York merchant, originally an Englishman, never sat down to table without his wine and brandy, and his three sons, in consequence, all grew up drunkards. One became so abandoned that his father cast him out of the house. At last some temperance people brought about his reformation, and he went to see his father on New Year's day. The old gentleman said: 'My son, I'm delighted to see you again. I'm glad you've reformed.' Thoughtlessly he said, 'Let's drink to your better life one glass of sherry.' The young man hesitated a moment, and then thought he would just drink one glass. The old appetite revived, and that night his father found him dead-drunk in his stable."

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

ON Friday, April 30th, according to previous appointment, Rev. Charles McKillop, Presbyterian minister of Admaston, met Mr. J. McLaren, of Carleton Place, in the Town Hall, Douglas, for the purpose of discussing the points of doctrine on which the body known as Plymouth Brethren differ from Presbyterians. After explanations from both gentlemen as to their reasons for having a public discussion, Mr. McLaren, in answer to questions by Mr. McKillop, stated the following doctrines of the Brethren, which were written on the blackboard: The Brethren do not believe, (1) In an ordained ministry, or any appointed officers in the Church, (2) In using the Lord's prayer, (3) That the unconverted should pray, (4) In asking pardon for sins, (5) In teaching believers to keep the Ten Commandments, (6) In a Sabbath day (as accepted by denominations), (7) In sending missionaries to the heathen, (8) In believers praying for the Holy Spirit. They do believe, (1) That the Church began at Pentecost, (2) That, before Pentecost no one could know he was saved, (3) That all male members of the Church have an equal right to teach. The arguments shewed careful preparation, much ability, and a thorough knowledge of Scripture on the part of both gentlemen. A marked feature of the controversy was the gentlemanly and Christian spirit manifested by both speakers, not an angry word having been uttered during the evening. The very large audience kept excellent order, and shewed by their unremitting attention during the five hours the discussion lasted, the intense interest they felt in it. Though neither speaker succeeded in convincing the other that he was in error, yet the meeting was not without its good effects, for it drew the attention of many to subjects on which they had never before thought, and, besides, set an example in religious controversy which all would do well to follow.—COM.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—A meeting of this Presbytery was held on Tuesday, the 4th inst., in the lecture room of Knox Church, Toronto. Rev. G. M. Milligan presented a report on Sabbath schools, which contained facts and figures bearing on the working of seventeen schools. He, with the Presbytery, regretted that more of the schools had not made returns. The report was referred back for further information to be again presented to the Synod. The Home Mission Report was presented by Rev. J. M. King, and was divided into five heads, viz.: (1) Mission stations; (2) vacant congregations; (3) supplementary congregations; (4) treasurer's statement; (5) the Presbytery's contributions to the Home Mission Fund, and the answers to circulars sent out on this question. The report was of a very satisfactory character, and shewed that many of the mission fields were self-supporting. The contributions to the funds during the year amounted to \$6,121.32, against \$3,960 the previous year. Of the former sum, \$3,833.92 were subscribed in the city. The report was adopted, and the Committee and its Convener were accorded thanks. Rev. Mr. Cameron asked that permission be given to sell the property of the East Presbyterian Church, corner of Queen and Parliament streets. The Presbytery raised no objection, and the Clerk was instructed to prepare the bill of sale. Rev. Mr. Hogg asked that the Presbytery moderate in a call for the Central Presbyterian Church of Toronto, which was agreed to. A remit from the General Assembly on ordination of Roman Catholic priests occasioned some discussion. After consideration, the Presbytery gave it as their opinion that ex-priests should be admitted, if found qualified, as licentiates on trial, and when called by congregations, to be ordained in the usual manner. An overture on Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, proposed at the last meeting of Presbytery, came up for discussion. Profs. McLaren, Gregg and Caven were appointed to give voice against the legalizing of the Bill, when the matter should be brought before the General Assembly in June. Rev. Dr. Reid, delegate to the General Assembly for the Presbyteries of Toronto and Manitoba, resigned the former position. Rev. Mr. Pettigrew was elected to fill the vacancy. Messrs. Elder, Taylor and Sutherland, also delegates to the Assembly, sent in their resignations. Messrs. William Wilson, Knox Church, James McLennan, Q.C., St. Andrew's Church, and William Eakin, of Unionville, were appointed in their stead. On motion Rev. Messrs. Amos

and Nicol were appointed to confer with the congregation of West King, and lay before it the wish of the Laskay congregation, in reference to union. If the former were found to be agreed on this, the reverend gentlemen to hold a meeting of the congregations and arrange as to the terms of the agreement. Messrs. Andrew B. Baird, B.A.; J. C. Tibb, M.A.; J. R. Johnson, B.A.; and William McKay, students, were examined and found satisfactory. The Presbytery agreed to apply for leave to take them on public trial for license to preach. An adjourned meeting was held on the 11th inst. in the lecture-room of Knox church, the Moderator, the Rev. Mr. Smith, presiding. After routine business, the resignation of the Rev. J. S. Eakin, of Mount Albert, was considered, and was finally accepted. The Home Mission Committee were instructed to "supply" the place. A call from St. James' church, Newcastle, N.B., to the Rev. W. Aitken, offering \$1,200 salary was accepted. The Commissioners of the Central Presbyterian church presented a call to the Rev. P. McLeod, of Stratford, promising salary of \$2,500 a year. The call was sustained, and the Rev. Mr. Hogg was appointed to represent the Toronto Presbytery before the Stratford Presbytery. On the motion of Principal Caven, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Milligan, a committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Gregg, King, Macdonnell, Caven, and Hon. John McMurrich, and Mr. T. W. Taylor, were appointed to draft a memorial expressing condolence with the family of the late Senator Brown in their bereavement. Speeches were made expressing the sense of the Presbytery at the loss the Church had sustained in Mr. Brown's death, and testifying to the numerous estimable qualities which characterized the deceased gentleman. After transacting other business, the meeting adjourned.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

The Toronto and Kingston Synod met in St. James' square Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on the evening of Tuesday, the 11th inst. Prof. McLaren, the retiring Moderator, preached an able sermon, selecting as his text the 5th, 6th and 7th verses of the 3rd chapter of Paul's Epistle to Titus. The Synod was then constituted and the roll called.

The Rev. Mr. Torrance, of Guelph, was then nominated and chosen unanimously as Moderator for the year. Upon taking the chair, he briefly thanked the Synod for the high honour conferred upon him. He trusted that the business would be conducted with that harmony which became the followers of the divine Master, and that no word or act of any member would cause the brethren to regret having assembled upon that occasion. They had met for business, and he hoped they would now proceed to transact it.

A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Moderator for his past services and for the excellent sermon with which his labours had that evening been concluded.

THE COMMITTEES.

The various committees in connection with the Synod were then notified of the hour at which they would meet each day for the transaction of business.

Prof. McLaren then moved, that when the Synod adjourned at noon on Wednesday it should stand adjourned until half-past seven p.m., in order that the members might attend the funeral of the Hon. George Brown; and thus pay their respects to the memory of one whose seat had been rendered vacant in that church. In offering the resolution he might be permitted to say that their deceased friend had been a staunch adherent of the Presbyterian Church, had conducted a church journal, and subsequently, when conducting a secular newspaper, his whole influence had been cast on the side of morality and the public good; and he felt satisfied that the Synod would desire to pay a tribute of respect to their departed friend and brother by attending his funeral in a body.

Rev. Mr. Smellie seconded the motion, which was carried.

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

TEMPTATION.

No man can honestly or hopefully ask to be delivered from temptation, unless he himself is honestly and firmly determined to do the best he can to keep out of it. But in modern days the first aim of all Christian parents is to place their children in circumstances where the temptations (which they are apt to call "opportunities") may be as great and many as pos-