

Books and Magazines.

sociological questions as to which there has heretofore been a wide gulf between Christianity and Judaism. One of these is the expediency of adopting a creed. Like some other religious denominations, the Jews have to complain of a "decay of faith," and to admit the need of "a positive system of belief." In the opinion of some of them, the time has come also for an agreement as to what ceremonies and institutions should be retained by those who desire reform and progress. One of the suggestions thrown out was that "American Judaism" should be regarded as a special organization of which the Conference was representative.

Another important subject of discussion was the observance of the Lord's day. The universal custom among Christians is to observe the first day of the week, as commemorative of Christ's resurrection; the Jews have hitherto observed the last day of the week as commemorative of the day of rest after the work of creation. One of the Rabbis at the Conference stated that many Jews now favor a "Sunday Sabbath," rather than a "Sabbath Saturday," and it seemed to him better to have "a Sunday Sabbath than no Sabbath at all. Either resanctify the Mosaic Sabbath, or give the Sunday the spirit of it." In the course of the discussion suggestions were thrown out for the adoption of effective methods in the Sunday schools, and for inducing women to participate more fully in the works of Judaism.

A "reform" prayer book has been coming into general use in the Jewish synagogues of Canada and the United States, the congregations now using it amounting to eighty-six. It is intended to have a hymn book to accompany this ritual, and it is expected that the number of hymns in it will reach 250. The draft is still in the hands of a committee for further revision.

One of the difficult questions before the convention was that of "Proselytes," a report on which was submitted, discussed, and referred to the executive of the Conference. Among the questions to be asked of the applicant for admission are these: "Is it your earnest and sincere wish, of your own free will and accord, to become a follower of the Jewish religion? Do you know and accept the fundamental principles of Judaism, and will you openly declare your belief in them, and observe all the Jewish ordinances? Is it your honest intention to live as a Jew?"

The report of the proceedings of this Conference is of interest, as showing on the part of those who conducted them a tendency towards liberalism, if not towards Christianity. One of the great bulwarks of the Judaistic religion has been the persistence of old Hebrew customs and traditions; another has been the persistence of a disbelief in the claim of Jesus Christ to be the Messiah. The discussions at the Milwaukee meeting seem to indicate a breaking up of the former; perhaps this may in due time pave the way to more general recognition of Him who was at once the Son of David and the Son of God.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND MARRIAGE.

FROM time to time there arises a controversy over the higher education of women, and its effect on the chances of their marrying after spending some years in taking a university course. If it could be proved indisputably that the chances would be lessened, that would constitute no valid reason for depriving them of the privilege of choosing for themselves what kind of an education they shall have; but it is satisfactory to be assured that statistics so far show no great falling off. The attendance of women at universities began so recently that it is not yet possible to make a safe generalization, but the facts collected so far seem to indicate that the proportion of women graduates who marry is about the same as the proportion of women in general. This is reassuring, so far as it goes, for the best justification of a university training for a woman is that it is an additional qualification for wifehood and motherhood. We can do much better without highly educated men than we can do without highly cultured women. A wife who is better educated and more versatile than her husband is likely to exercise a more enduring influence on his life than she would otherwise have done, and it adds enormously to a mother's influence over her boys and girls if she is able to keep them company in their studies to the very limit of school courses and beyond.

A FIRST FLEET FAMILY: A Hitherto Unpublished Narrative of certain Remarkable Adventures Compiled from the Papers of Sergeant William Dew, of the Marines. By Louis Becke and Walter Jeffrey. Colonial Edition. London: T. Fisher Unwin.]

This veracious narrative is very gravely introduced to the public by the editors and the unsuspecting reader is led to believe that he is perusing a piece of genuine history. The verisimilitude is well preserved throughout and the story is so full of moving incidents by flood and field that one readily forgives the ingenious but by no means original device of the so-called editors. The scene is chiefly in New South Wales, and life in the convict colony is very vividly depicted.

A YEAR'S SERMONS. By S. D. McConnell, D.D. Author of "History of the American Episcopal Church," "Sons of God," etc. [New York: Thomas Whitaker. 1896. Cloth \$1 25]

These sermons, fifty-two in number, were never preached. They were prepared for the editorial page of the *Philadelphia Press*, and are, perhaps, on that account more readable and effective than if they had been prepared for, and actually delivered from, the pulpit. They are short, concise and direct, and upon subjects of pressing interest to that great class to which they were originally addressed and to which this volume is now dedicated, the congregation outside the Church, that people who are the fascination and the despair of the preacher.

IN THE NEW ENGLAND FIELDS AND WOODS. By Rowland E. Robinson. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

A real lover of nature is our author, full of the nobler instincts of the sportsman as well as the poet. His sketches are marked by close observation and rare descriptive powers, all the more remarkable in a man of imperfect educational advantages, as we judge from the absence of all scientific phraseology, which the average reader will not fail to appreciate. Though by misfortune his later years are passed in darkness, his eyes have once been more than usually sharp and his mental vision quick and sympathetic, his imagination vivid and his memory tenacious. Such a man could not avoid being a poet as well as an artist. Though his book has in it neither verses nor engravings, it has many a page lit up with flashes of poetic genius and graphic power. Of such a character, with scarce an exception, are the fifty-seven sketches which make up the volume.

SPRING'S IMMORTALITY AND OTHER POEMS. By Mackenzie Bell, author of "Charles Whitehead a Forgotten Genius." With a New Prefatory Note. Third Edition. [Ward, Lock & Bowden, Limited, London, New York and Melbourne.]

A few months ago we noticed in terms of commendation the second edition of these poems and we feel gratified that the favorable opinion we then expressed has been justified by the demand for a third edition. "Spring's Immortality" first appeared in 1893, and it is no small distinction for a young poet to have three editions called for in so short a time. We have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Bell's poems fully merit the appreciation and favor with which they have evidently been received. With the exception of some further revisions the present edition is in size, matter and arrangement, precisely similar to the last one; but it has an engraved title page of artistic design and a fine steel portrait of the author for a frontispiece. We shall be on the lookout for new work from Mr. Bell's pen.

The leading feature of *Our Day* for August is an illustrated paper on "Christianity vs Buddhism," by John Henry Barrows, chairman of the World's Parliament of Religions. Another interesting article is by G. T. J. Davis on "The Order of Deaconesses."

Godey's for August, in addition to half a dozen pieces of fiction, has a number of papers quite as entertaining as fiction, such as "Great Slingers of this Century," "Some Armenian Notables," "American Wives of Foreign Diplomats," and "Talks of Successful Women."

The *Ladies' Home Journal* for August is a short story number, and contains an unusual amount of excellent fiction by well-known writers. Among the articles of practical interest are "The Secretary of the Treasury," by Ex-President Harrison, and "Selecting a Career," by Dr. Parkhurst.

The special feature of *McClure's Magazine* for August is W. T. Stead's paper on "Gladstone at Eighty-six," illustrated with recent portraits of Mr. Gladstone and his family. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps' reminiscences of literary Boston and a paper on Lincoln's career as a lawyer will also be read with interest.

In the August *Arena* many important practical questions are discussed by writers of well-known ability. Among these may be mentioned "The Morning of a New Day" and a "Reply to a Financial Seer," both on the silver side of the money problem; "The Telegraph Monopoly," "Is the West Discontented," "The Convict Question," and "Ethics the only Basis of Religion."

The *Homiletic Review* for August opens with the conclusion of Sir J. William Dawson's "Natural Facts Illustrative of the Biblical Account of the Deluge," and another article from Canada is "Light on Scriptural Texts from Recent Discoveries," by Prof. J. F. McCurdy, LL.D., of University College. Always rich in scholarly and helpful contributions, this excellent magazine should be invaluable to ministers and theological students.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for August has a very varied and attractive table of contents. "Cuba's Struggle for Liberty," is embellished with many portraits and interesting views, and "The Making of a President" has portraits of Cleveland, McKinley, T. B. Reed, Whitney, W. E.

Russell, and W. L. Allison. There is the usual amount of fiction, and papers on Anarchism, Montenegro, and Salisbury and Wells Cathedrals.

The *Atlantic Monthly* easily holds its rank as the literary magazine of the United States. The July number is full of first class matter; but probably the articles that will appeal most strongly to Canadian readers are "Arbitration and our Relations with England," by Hon. E. J. Phelps, and "The United States and the Anglo-Saxon Future," by Prof. G. B. Adams. Mr. Cable's "Speculations of a Novelist," and "Confessions of Public School Teachers," are both interesting and suggestive.

The August *Review of Reviews* might be justly termed a portrait number, so richly is it dowered in that respect. There is a portrait of the late Governor of Massachusetts, W. E. Russell, a portrait of Dr. Barnardo, several portraits of Harriet Beecher Stowe, and a character sketch of William Jennings Bryan furnishes an excuse for numberless portraits of the Bryan family. In addition to all these there are portraits of many hitherto unknown or only locally known politicians who came to the front in the recent nominating conventions.

With the August number *Book News* (Wanamaker, Philadelphia), completes its 14th volume and the index shows to what a very large extent this publication is a guide to contemporary literature. The current number, in a special and very appropriate cover, has a fine portrait of Rev. Dr. John Watson ("Ian Maclaren") and also one of George Austin Woodward, author of "The Diary of a Peculiar Girl." The reviews cover all the more important recent publications and cannot fail to prove helpful to the book-reader as well as to the book-buyer.

The *Musical Record* (Oliver Ditson Company, Boston) has in its August number a biographical and critical sketch of Verdi and a number of excellent contributed articles in addition to editorials, notes, criticisms and reviews. An entertaining paper entitled "Merry Jingles to Catch Votes," gives an account of some campaign songs that have played an important part in elections. The music of the number comprises two songs "Just as of Old, Little Darling," and "Summer Morn," and two pieces of dance music, "Happy Hour Waltz" and "The Darkie's Shuffle."

The August *Century* is the Midsummer Holiday number and in a special and attractive cover. A paper by Hon. J. W. Foster on "Li Hung Chang," whose present mission abroad is the subject of much speculation, gives a clear presentation of the eminent Viceroy and his services to the Empire. The curious will be interested in "An Island Without Death" and the archeologist in Prof. Petrie's "Pharaoh of the Hard Heart." Besides the serials there are four short stories of considerable merit; and with "The Vatican" Mr. F. Marion Crawford concludes his papers on Rome. The illustrations, it is needless to say, are numerous and striking.

The frontispiece of the *Biological World* for July is a portrait of the Rev. George Adam Smith, D.D., Professor of Hebrew in the Free Church College, Glasgow, of whom an interesting and appreciative biographical sketch is contributed by his colleague, Prof. Alexander Balmain Bruce. Another biographical paper has for its subject the venerable Professor W. H. Green, D.D., LL.D., of Princeton, whose professorial jubilee was celebrated there in May last. Other noteworthy articles are "Notes on Thessalonica," "The Parable of the Field," "A Sketch of the Excavations in Babylonia and Assyria," "The Character of Jesus" and "The Bible in Young People's Societies."

Scribner's Magazine for August is also a fiction number, and it, too, comes to us in pretty, holiday attire. It opens with the first of Mr. A. F. Jaccaci's papers "On the Trail of Don Quixote," illustrated with numerous striking drawings by the great French illustrator, Vierge. Annie Elliot's little comedy, "As Strangers," is profusely embellished with marginal illustrations and decorative borders in colors, thus giving the number a very novel appearance. The comedy, six short stories, an instalment of Barrie's "Sentimental Tommy," the Don Quixote paper, and some excellent poetry by such writers as N. H. Stoddard, Clinton Scollard, Mrs. Fields, George Cabot Lodge and Henrietta Christian Wright, make up a most desirable number for holiday reading.

Many of the popular magazines come to us this month with specially designed and, for the most part, very artistic covers. We are not exceedingly charmed with that of *Harper's* for August; but the contents of the number are more than usually attractive. Popular interest in Longfellow is by no means on the wane, and admirers of the Cambridge poet will welcome Mr. Howell's able and appreciative paper. Mark Twain contributes the first of a two part story, in which our old friend Tom Sawyer re-appears in the role of a detective; and Arthur Lampman, a poem, "The Song of Pan." The illustrations are numerous and meritorious. By the way, there appears to be an inexhaustible stock of Washington portraits, or the same old portraits are periodically re-produced. There are only five in this number.

"George Muller, the Patriarch and Prophet of Bristol," is the subject of the opening paper in the August number of the *Missionary Review of the World*. In this sketch Dr. Pierson recounts some exceedingly interesting incidents in Mr. Muller's life and gives an account of the orphanages of which he is the founder. "Papal Europe" is the general subject for the current month, and in addition to the notes in the Field of Survey Department, Rev. Wm. A. Gulick writes of "The Gospel in Spain," Prof. L. J. Bertrand tells of the "Work Among the French Priests," Rev. Ruben Saillens contributes "Notes from Paris," and the editor-in-chief gives a brief history of "The Inquisition and Its Holy Offices." Other articles in this issue are "Lessons from Romish Missions," by Rev. William F. Gibbons, "Romanism in China," by Rev. John Ross, of Manchuria, and an editorial on "Regulated Vice in Geneva."