

Under this system it is probable the duration of a Methodist pastorate in the United States will not be much briefer on the average than that of a Presbyterian, Baptist or Congregationalist pastorate, whose theory is that of a more permanent location. If this be so, the question arises, Is the new Methodist system as good as could be suggested for the making and bringing to an end of ministerial engagements? The advantage of the new plan is that it does not prevent a tolerably long pastorate where a useful work is being done, and yet it allows a dignified, automatically-working method of terminating the connection when that is desirable. In some churches, the only way a pastoral can be brought to a termination is through a row. To have it understood that a man may continue, if that be thought best, or retire without loss of dignity, if that be preferred, would solve many a difficult congregational problem, and solve it along the line of modern democratic principles. If the people who pay as well as pray want a certain minister, well, they have a right to have their way; if they do not want a certain minister, he should not be forced upon them. Besides, a change is often good both for preacher and people; it is frequently seen that a preacher who is not adapted to one place, proves to be just the man for another.

The future of Canada is, or used to be, a favorable subject for academic discussion. We do not think there is quite so much of that kind of thing just now. The situation has of late assumed a certain definiteness and earnestness which makes mere abstract debate seem even more artificial. The future that concerns the practical politician is the immediate future, the future that touches the present and grows out of it. It has been well said that there is no finality in politics. There are things which in England today are part of the working system, part of the British constitution. These things are accepted by Conservatives as well as Liberals, but fifty years ago they formed part of the wildest Radical programme, and were denounced as "un-British," and as likely to destroy that British constitution which had grown to greatness through a thousand years. The teaching from this is not that statesmen can safely take up any popular fad and put it into legislation, but that after free discussion and careful experiment, changes may be made which are real improvements, though they seemed at first sight to be very risky. It shows that it is very difficult to say what will come into the sphere of practical politics in the next generation. We

The English in Africa.

"Ministers of the crown in this country are usually so absorbed in politics that they are really unable to pay attention to questions outside of the party sphere. The Minister of Justice, the execution of justice and the general rule. Mr. Mills has been applying himself to a close study of the African question, and as a result we have from his pen a volume published by Longmans, Green and Co. of London. The subject is one with which a worker and thinker of Mr. Mills' school is peculiarly qualified to deal. The minister always was a student of history and of constitutional law. What is new and common has brought a vast fund of information to bear upon the various subjects on which he spoke. Everybody did not agree with his conclusions; but everybody respected his conclusions. His countrymen in his knowledge and that he made skillful use of what he knew.

Equipped as he is, owing to his wide range of reading and his disposition to investigate and understand questions of the higher politics, Mr. Mills was just the man to write upon Africa, and he has formed a book which is both literary, producing a most valuable and instructive book. One consequence of the war, of course, has been to put in circulation a mass of undigested information respecting Africa, respectively British, French, German, Italian and respecting the causes which led to the present conflict. The result is that, while there are thousands of people who are acquainted with some of the facts, there is comparatively little thorough knowledge of the whole subject and are able to perceive the situation with a due regard to perspective. Mr. Mills' book is intended to help in this regard. It is no mere brochure, but a carefully considered work, in which the romantic history of the various colonizing operations of Britain and her two rivals—France and Germany—are detailed with great clearness. As a book of reference, therefore, the volume is particularly useful. It also gives an account of how Britain came to assume a protectorate of Egypt, and of the consequences of her action, together with historical details of the chief occurrences in connection with the British occupation of Egypt, from the time when the Egyptian forces to the Sudan, and we become acquainted with the evils of Arab rule and the origin of the fanatical outbreak under the influence of Arabism in Persia. The story of Gordon, and the suppression of the slave trade, under the auspices of the British Government, passing

the eastern and western coasts, it is shown that the obstacles to British colonization were not furnished by practical Dervishes, but by the unscrupulous intrigues sent out by France and Germany to see what they could pick up in the way of acquisitions. Mr. Mills proves that Great Britain cannot be so easily deceived as to suppose that while the French were conducting campaigns of conquest for the purposes of glory, the English were actually opening the way to the interior by the blessings of freedom and good government. The author also devotes a chapter to Rhodesia, which in the face of recent colonialism is very interesting and important. But it is on the subject of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State that Mr. Mills displays the fullness of his information and the extent of his researches. He gives a very concise history of the recalcitrant republics with a mass of material to aid us in making a correct judgment of the case. Nor is Mr. Mills open to the charge of partiality. He says as much as can possibly be said by way of palliation of Gladstone's monumental mistake after Majuba Hill, but he does not shrink from a candid and just estimate of the administration at that time.

"With regard to recent circumstances in connection with the South African republics," is the demand that we have no doubt in his mind as to the fact that in demanding freedom for the Ullanders, even at the point of the bayonet, Britain followed the only possible course of necessity. Of the Boer injustices and outrages Mr. Mills gives a full and graphic description, and points out that no civilization, and whose civilization is the only one, could in the moment tolerate them. We are glad Mr. Mills has made this contribu-

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tion to the study of the African situation. It will help to a better understanding of the case and will do good."

"Mistress and Maid."

Judging from the letters in some of our journals, the domestic service question is again to the fore. In fact, we may say that it is always to the front, though it is not always that those who are haunted by its presence rush into print. We may suppose that it is only when the pressure is keen, as, for instance, at the time of spring winds and spring cleaning, that the sufferers take to airing their grievances in such public places as the newspaper columns. However that may be, we have again heard the wail that domestic servants are very unreasonable people, answered by the cry that mistresses are overruling and thoughtless. Even the name that should be given to those who minister in the kitchens is a subject for discussion. We confess that the name which grates most upon our feelings is "the hired girl." That is a wretched phrase which carries its condemnation on its own face. It is suggestive of coarseness and want of feeling and loyalty. Lady-help stands at the other extreme, and has a touch of affection about it. The old word "servant" is honorable enough if we were only trained to think so, for there is nothing nobler in the life of man or woman than to be able to serve their fellow-men in any capacity. Indeed, the trouble in this region is more

a matter of sentiment and ideas than
of salary or hours.

In this democratic age people are apt to think that there is something undignified in being a "servant," but why it should be a meaner thing to serve in a house than in a store or a printing office we are at a loss to say. We remember that the famous Mr. Sheldon in one of his stories dealt with this problem, but the "hired girl" of his novel was something like Miss Sheldon in the editor's chair, she was soon rescued from the trying position and sent out upon a more romantic career. That may do for a book, but it is not the solution of real life. We could not undertake to find a new girl every month who played classic music on the piano, captured the little boy by the tasteful pies and the big boy by her good looks. The stock of sweet girl graduates would soon run out at that rate.

However, we think that things are not quite so black as they are painted, as we know that there are thousands of sensible young women rendering good service in the homes of the people, and the number may be increased if there is more of the spirit of "give and take." Neither mistresses or maids like to feel that they are made a mere convenience of; but when there is on both sides a little unselfish consideration things may be put on a more satisfactory basis. But, after all, the settlement depends more on the spirit of the parties concerned than upon any formal rules.

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