

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Harper's Magazine

New York: Harper & Brother. December, 1877.

This number contains a new poem by Longfellow, called "Keramos." It exhibits great skill in realistic description, while at the same time it is highly imaginative. Its ruling idea is that of change. There is a clever paper on the "Metropolitan Newspaper;" it is embellished by twenty-seven illustrations including portraits of prominent New York editors. The usual Christmas story is entitled "Many Leaves and few Grapes," the two illustrations which accompany it are very striking. We have not read the article on the "Cosmogony of Paradise Lost;" but we have long thought that the cosmogony in question offered an exceedingly tempting field to the critic. In prospect we suppose of the long winter nights and the Christmas holidays, this number is especially rich in fiction. The editorial summaries are varied and entertaining as usual.

Littell's Living Age for 1878.

Littell & Gay, Boston.

This standard periodical enables one, with a small outlay of time and money, to keep pace with the best thought and literature of the day. Issued weekly, and giving over *three and a quarter thousand* large pages of reading matter a year, it is enabled to present with a freshness and satisfactory completeness attempted by no other publication, the ablest essays and reviews, the choicest serial and short stories, the most interesting sketches of travel and discovery, the best poetry, and the most valuable biographical, historical, scientific and political information, from the entire body of foreign periodical literature, and from the pens of the foremost writers. For 1878, an extra offer is made to all new subscribers, viz.: to send them *gratis* the last six numbers of 1877, containing the first instalments of a new serial ("Erica"), translated from the German of Frau von Ingersleben,—the best work of one of the best and brightest authors of Germany. These numbers also contain a story by the charming English authoress, Miss Thackeray, printed from advance sheets, and the usual amount of other valuable matter. The subscription price (\$8 a year,) is cheap for the amount of the reading given; while the publishers make a still cheaper offer, viz.: to send "The Living Age" and either one of the American \$4 monthlies or weeklies, a year, both postpaid, for \$10.50; thus furnishing to the subscriber at a remarkably small cost the cream of both English and foreign literature. In making a selection of periodicals for the new year, this "magazine of magazines" is well worthy the attention of every one, as in no other way that we know of can a subscriber be put in possession of the best which the current literature of the world affords, so conveniently or cheaply. The volume begins Jan. 1st.

Scribner's Monthly.

New York: Scribner & Co. December, 1877.

The December number of this popular magazine contains a well-written travel sketch called "From the Atlantic to the Andes." The course is along the Amazon and Madeira rivers, and the writer gives an interesting account of the caoutchouc manufacture going on in these regions. The scientific paper on "Mars and his Moons," by Lieutenant E. W. Sturdy of the U. S. Naval Observatory, is fresh and valuable. "The Wooden Age" is an essay on the lumber trade of the United States. It gives from thirty to fifty years as the time required to exhaust the timber of the country at the present rate of cutting. The following extract from Dr. Holland's "Topics of the Times" shows that "protection" has not yet begun to make their fortunes for our neighbors on the other side:

"We have built a wall around us—a wall of protection. Our manufactories are lying still because they have no market. They can get no market outside, for, with raw materials taxed, as they are in many instances, they cannot compete in the markets of the world. Again, they can get no markets outside, because what those markets have to give us in exchange is shut out by 'protection.' Trade is a game of give and take; and we cannot shut out the products of other nations if we hope to sell them our own. We ask for no free trade that will be inconsistent with a tariff that will give us the largest revenue; but it seems to us that the policy of taxing the people of the United States for the protection of industries that have become bankrupt under the policy or have ceased to find a sufficient market at home, is about played out."

The Sabbath School Work: Feeding the Lambs.

A Sermon by Rev. James Little, A.M., Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Bowmanville, Ont.

This is a timely work. Its subject, "The Sabbath School Work," is one which presses upon the attention of the Church. Mr. Little treats his subject in a masterly manner. After quoting texts bearing upon his subject, and speaking of the moral responsibility resting upon the pastor and overseers of the Church, the preacher states the purpose of his discourse "Simply to bring forward such bearings of the work as relate to feeding and keeping of the lambs of the flock, and to this work especially as prosecuted in the Sabbath School." This leads him to bring forward the Sabbath School work in its character, aims, and specific work in feeding the lambs of Christ's flock. The second part is a valuable exposition of the relation of the Sabbath School to the church to which it belongs, in which the author shows that the Sabbath School is a part of the whole. "The relation implies submission to the authority of pastors and overseers into whose care the chief shepherd has committed them." Mr. Little upholds the action of the General Assembly held in Halifax, which enjoins upon ministers to have a sessional care of the school and to see that suitable teachers are engaged in the work. The sermon is an able one, not only in its treatment, but in its literary qualities. The language is clear, the thought is perspicuous, and the element of imagery and illustration which is essential to good preaching is not wanting. Although Mr. Little is quiet and retiring, confining himself almost entirely to his parish, his reputation as a preacher has gone beyond his own town and Presbytery. With such a discourse before us, we do not wonder at the growing popularity of the preacher. It reveals thoroughness, earnestness, and eloquence. Delivered in the easy and graceful manner for which Mr. Little is highly praised and without the use of notes, the effect cannot but be thrilling and edifying. Let us conclude with the closing paragraph of the discourse.

"My object this morning, in connection with making our annual collection for the Sabbath School, has been to set before you the work and relation of the Sabbath School, that I may bring you into livelier sympathy with its work, and that I may also bring the Sabbath School into closer connection and sympathy with you and him who is in charge of both. And as we are one flock under one shepherd let us give our kindly labors, our united fervent prayers, our generous contributions, to the work. Let our hearts throb in warmest sympathy with it. Let us feel that the Sabbath School work is our work. It is the work of the pastor and elders, it is the work of the congregation, which we do through those called to and entrusted with it. Those workers in our place are worthy of and need our help and constant encouragement. Our esteemed superintendent (may I be excused this remark,) was at his post when I came into this charge, so that I had no share in his appointment. But allow me to say that had I been making the freest choice I would not have chosen another in his place. I believe that he and those associated with him in the work are labouring to accomplish for us and for the Master the most they can. They and we must labour to make, with the divine blessing, the Sabbath School a living power. It must be an auxiliary to the church, which shall give us back the young committed to its care better prepared for and inclined to enter the ranks of the church. It must be a nursery from which the children shall come forth trained, and formed and made fit for the Master's use. As one of our successful pioneer missionaries to India set his motto so should we of the Sabbath School. It was this: 'Undertake great things for Christ and expect great results from him.' If we have no spirit of enterprise or expectation we will not work up to the standard of great success. If we are animated only by the dull and plodding spirit of formal discharge of dimly apprehended duty, we need not expect, we cannot achieve, any great results in the Sabbath School."

NOW is a good time to subscribe for the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. The publisher will send the paper from the present time to the beginning of 1879, for a single subscription. Get up a club small or large—and receive one or more of the valuable books offered as premiums. Commence at once; there is not locality in the country where a few names can't be secured.

WE ask attention to the liberal Premium List published in another column. If a Bible Class desires to make an appropriate present to the Minister, what better can they do than secure *fifty* new names as subscribers to the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, and order Chambers' Encyclopedia to be forwarded to their faithful friend and pastor? This work is invaluable for reference—is indeed a library in itself—and will prove a most useful addition to a Minister's library. Or for a club of *thirteen* new names Cassell's Bible Dictionary, illustrated by nearly 600 engravings, will be forwarded. New subscribers receive the paper from this date to the end of 1878.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

CREMOR FOR BROKEN MARBLE.—Take gum arabic, 1 lb. make into a thick mucilage; add to it powdered plaster Paris, 1½ lb.; sifted quicklime, 5 oz.; mix well; heat the marble, and apply the mixture.

REMEDY FOR NEURALGIA.—Hypophosphite of soda taken in 1 dram doses three times per day in beef tea is a good remedy for this painful affection. So is the application of bruised horse-radish, or the application of oil of peppermint applied lightly with a camel's hair pencil.

ROAST BEEF.—Take three ribs of beef; cut out the gristle and bones, roll tightly, skewer, and wind with strong twine. Pound with a rolling-pin till evenly shaped, and take a little more than if the bone had not been removed. Baste well, bake quickly at first; afterwards with a milder but steady heat.

SUGAR PASTE CREAM CAKES.—One pound of flour, quarter of a pound of sugar, and one egg well beaten. Add sugar to the egg; then work the flour into them with a little cold water. Roll out rather thin, and line small tarts with it, or cut with cake-cutter, and put a strip of pastry on the outside, close to the edge; then fill in with mock cream—sprinkle powdered sugar over, and return to the oven a few minutes to brown the top.

TO MAKE THE MOCK CREAM.—Boil one pint milk; add a tablespoonful of corn starch or maize in a very little cold milk; add one well beaten egg, one tablespoonful of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt. Flavor with lemon, rose water, vanilla, or nutmeg. When the milk is just ready; boil, stir in these ingredients. Let it boil up two minutes, stirring all the time. Let it get quite cold before filling tarts. Corn starch is so largely adulterated now that a spoonful may not make the custard quite thick enough. One trial will determine.

REMEDY FOR HEADACHE.—A Parisian physician has published a new remedy for headaches. He uses a mixture of ice and salt, in proportion of one to one-half, as a cold compress, and this he applies by means of a little purse of gauze, and with a rim of gutta-serena, to limited spots on the head, when rheumatic headaches are felt. It gives instantaneous relief. The application is from one-half minute to one and one-half minute, and the skin is rendered white and hard by the applications.

TO CURE A COLD.—Before retiring soak the feet in mustard water as hot as can be endured. The feet should at first be plunged in a pail half-full of lukewarm water, adding by degrees very hot water until the desired heat is attained, protecting the body and knees with blankets so to direct the vapor from the water as to induce a good sweat. Next, two tablespoonfuls of boiling water, add one tablespoonful white sugar and fourteen drops of strong spirits of camphor. Drink the whole and cuddle in bed under plenty of bed clothes and sleep it off.

DECAY OF FRUITS.—Recent experiments by Dr. Brefeld in Germany, have shown that decay in apples was caused by fungi, *Mucor telonifera*, *M. racemosus*, *Botrytis cinerea*, and *Penicillium glaucum*. But the spores of these fungi would not germinate on sound apples. When moistened with apple juice, however, and placed on sound fruit they germinated rapidly, or when placed in bruises or artificial wounds; showing that sap escaped from the cells and existing in their interstices was necessary to the germination of the fungi. The obvious lesson is, keep the fruit free from bruises, by careful handling, and, other conditions favorable, we may expect the fruit to keep well. A lesson learned by practice, but this is a nice explanation of it.

RULES FOR THE SICK-ROOM.—(1) Bring in fresh flowers or something new every day; even the commonest green thing is better than nothing. (2) Don't talk about anything unpleasant. Talk about something that will lead the patient's thoughts away from aches and pains, and leave him in cheerful and restful state of mind. (3) Follow the doctor's directions implicitly. (4) Never ask a sick person what he wants to eat. If he asks for anything that will not injure him, get it if you can. Never bring him much at a time. A little bit in a dainty dish will sometimes tempt the appetite when a large quantity would cause nausea. (5) Expect sick persons to be unreasonable. They will fret and complain, no matter what happens, and must be borne with patiently. *Hauschkeper.*

ELECTRIC CANDLES—A NEW THING.—"Among other battles at which one assists, this moment, in France, is the battle between electric candles and gaslight. Yesterday evening I visited this peculiar candle manufactory, in the Avenue de Villiers, the director of which is a Russian engineer, and also the inventor, M. Joblockoff. Now, as Voltaire observed, light comes from the north. The laboratory is hung with pictures and colored stuffs, which can be as easily distinguished in their shades as if in full noonday. The candles have the same ratio to gas and oil lamps as sun to moonlight. The inventor poured some glasses of water on the flame of his dips, but they burned away all the same. They emit no smoke, and consequently cannot blacken objects, nor are they heat—350 times less than an ordinary candle—hence hooves will not fall out of their bindings, nor tapestry turn into blasphemous. There can be no fire, no explosions, and the light can be laid on some three to fifteen times cheaper than gas or oil light. The light does not tremble or twinkle much, as none at all if it passes through a globe slightly opaque. The candle is composed of two cylindrical sticks of charcoal, separated by a preparation of sand, ground glass and kaolin. A magneto-electro machine furnishes the current, which flows from one point to the other of the charcoal rods. Each candle burns three hours, and the extinction of one lights another. We are more than on the eve of a great discovery, but as the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it, the invention will soon be tested, as the circus, the opera, the Louvre drapery shop, and the railway termini are to be illuminated by the new process. It will never be accepted by ladies for a hall-room, as, unlike charity, it will not cover a multitude of sins."—*San Francisco Call.*