

professional politicians. What some of these worthies are capable of, recent disclosures in election and other courts only too plainly reveal.

It cannot surely be the duty of Christian men to stand aside, and let the welfare of the country be jeopardized by parties who degrade politics into a game of grab. If we boast of possessing Christian statesmen, we ought also to have our Christian politicians. We need the application to our political life of the principles recognized in our social and religious life.

The Presidential campaign in the United States has shown how necessary it is to consider the personal fitness of candidates who aspire to public life, that they are qualified for the discharge of the duties of the positions they seek. It is not alone sufficient that a man be faithful to the party whose representative he is; he must possess the intellectual qualities requisite for the worthy performance of the duties of his office. He must, to be a worthy representative of the community that entrusts him with their confidence, be a man of unblemished reputation. A primary requisite in every one that occupies a seat in municipal, and legislative assemblies is a moral character that will bear inspection. A man without a sense of personal honour and integrity has no call to legislate for the community. He is not to be depended upon; he cannot be trusted. It will not do for people who desire to live virtuous and peaceable lives, to say in effect to their growing sons: "What a man's private record may be does not much matter, if he is a smart business man and a glib talker; that is pretty much all we want." We cannot, as a people, afford to dispense with personal character.

Aspirants for public office should be men of reputable morals. It is not necessary to encourage malicious and untruthful disparagement, and the resuscitation of repented-of follies. What is needed is that men who are publicly known to lead dissolute lives should not be accepted as our municipal or provincial legislators. These are not the men we should delight to honour. Have Canadians been sufficiently careful in this respect in the past? We see only too plainly what it has led to among our neighbours.

If we were more careful as to the characters of our public men, there would be a better tone in our public life. The bitterness, uncharitableness and unscrupulous nature of much of our political discussion would disappear. Men and measures would be considered on their merits more than on their demerits, as is now too often the case. There would be greater confidence in our public men, if they were more generally selected for their personal worth, as well as for their intellectual fitness and social standing.

The people throughout the country will soon be called upon to elect their municipal representatives. The franchise is a public trust possessed by the people. They are responsible for the manner in which they discharge their duty. Partyism should have nothing to do with municipal matters. Christian electors should vote for the best men, in every sense of the word, whatever their party allegiance in the wider sphere of politics. We want the kind of men Moses was instructed to choose, "men who fear God and hate covetousness."

Books and Magazines.

THE WESTMINSTER QUESTION BOOK FOR 1885. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This useful little manual contains as formerly the scheme of lessons for the coming year, together with exhaustive questions that bring out the principal points of the International Lesson Series.

EVENING REST. OR UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT SHEPHERD. By L. L. (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.)—The Young Folks' Library series, recently begun, has furnished agreeable and instructive reading to the class to whom it is specially addressed. Evening Rest is a simple story well told, and conveying an excellent impression.

AN OLD SAILOR'S YARN. By Captain Roland F. Coffin. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—There is a peculiar interest in tales of the sea. Captain Coffin tells a series of fascinating yarns in this the last issue of the Standard Library. They treat of many phases of sea-life from whaling expeditions in the South Seas to blockade-running in the late civil war.

DAVID STRONG'S ERRAND. By Mrs. Nathaniel Conklin. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This well-written story contains a number of striking incidents so that the reader's interest never flags till the conclusion is reached. The lessons it teaches are valuable. It is well printed and handsomely bound.

THE YANKEE SCHOOL-TEACHER IN VIRGINIA. By Lydia Wood Baldwin. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—When sketched by a kindly hand, negro life with its beliefs and superstitions, its humour and pathos, is full of interest to general readers. The work before us, a recent issue of the Standard Library, is a very racy account, true to nature, of negro life in Virginia after the close of the war.

THE MEISTERSCHAFT SYSTEM. By Dr. Richard S. Rosenthal. (Boston: Estes & Lauriat.)—No foreign language can be acquired without intelligent application, but great improvements in methods of mastering other languages have been made of late years. One of the best of these is that known as the Meisterschaft System. It is simple and philosophic. A resolute student could unaided make great progress by means of it. The work before us is the application of the system to the acquisition of the Spanish language. It is published in fifteen parts, paper covers.

HOW TO SEE JESUS, WITH FULLNESS OF JOY AND PEACE. By James W. Kimball. (Boston: John A. Whipple.)—This is a plain, simple work, admirably fitted to help all who seek to obtain a living and joyous piety from its one true source, personal communion with Christ. The author is well and, as past success shows, favourably known to Christian readers, and this book will in no way detract from his fame. It has already attained its eighth edition, and bids fair to occupy a not unenviable place in Christian literature. We wish him God-speed, and heartily commend the book to all Christian readers.

THE POACHER'S DAUGHTER. Translated from the French by Anne H. Giles. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—The character of this handsome little volume may be learned from the translator's preface: This tender and simple narrative, attractive to us with its portraiture of life in a secluded district of France, is a translation of *La Fille du Braconnier*, of J. de Vèze. It will be found interesting and not unprofitable by American readers, to whom its scenes and conversations will come with a flavour that does not attach to the more familiar narratives of their own land.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The contents of the current number of the *Pulpit Treasury* are rich and varied. The sermons are: "Reconciliation," by Dr. Deems; "The Transforming Power of the Gospel," by Dr. B. M. Palmer, and the "Attractive Power of the Gospel," by S. M. Hamilton, D.D. Besides these there are a number of leading thoughts of sermons by some of the most noted preachers of the time. Dr. Philip Schaff has a concise paper on "Faith and Criticism." There is a portrait of Dr. Deems, a view of the Church of the Strangers, and an appreciative sketch of its pastor.

HALF HOURS WITH THE LESSONS OF 1885. By Twenty-four Presbyterian Clergymen. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—Presbyterian Sabbath school teachers and advanced scholars have derived great benefit from this valuable exposition of the International Series of Lessons in the past. The volume for the coming year may be said to be the best that has yet appeared. A number of the most competent and best known ministers of the American Church are among the contributors to the present volume. Noteacher who desires to be thoroughly conversant with the lessons of 1885 ought to be without this valuable help.

CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL HAND-BOOK OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW. By Heinrich Auguste Wilhelm Meyer, Th. D. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—Meyer's Commentary is so well and favourably known by all Biblical scholars that a detailed account of its merits is quite superfluous. The cheap and handsome American edition published by Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls places it within the reach of all to whom it would be of use. It is a translation of the sixth German edition which received the final revision of its author, the Rev. Peter Christie. The translation is revised and edited by Professors Frederick, Crombie, D.D., and William Stewart, D.D. This edition contains a preface and supplementary notes by George R. Crooks, D.D., Professor in Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J.

MORE FRATERNAL GREETINGS.

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THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN comes out this week in a new dress and full of church news. The improvement in appearance is marked. The announcement is made that arrangements are in progress for increasing its efficiency.—*Toronto Mail.*

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THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is a paper on which a good deal of careful editorial work is shown, and it is easy to see that the labour of revision is in practised hands. We shall be glad to see THE PRESBYTERIAN continue on its prosperous career.—*London Advertiser.*

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, always a good paper, has been further improved by a new dress of type. It looks a model of typographical beauty, and its contents are always of an excellent character. It is one of the best edited and best printed weeklies in Canada.—*Huron Signal.*

THE New York *Christian-at-Work* is no doubt within bounds when it speaks of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN as "the leading denominational paper in Canada." A list of the contributors to THE PRESBYTERIAN displays some of the most distinguished theologians in that denomination, while the general editorial matter shows a breadth and liberality of view that renders the paper welcome in any household.—*London Advertiser. (Second Notice.)*

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