

sidered, passed a series of resolutions that may be described as self-evident, and it is hoped that after due consideration they will lead to satisfactory practical results. The experiments in dealing with offenders between the ages of sixteen and sixty in Elmira Prison have been so encouraging that similar efforts in Ontario were urged by the Conference, and the appointment by the Ontario Government of a commission of competent men to consider the whole question was unanimously recommended. To these recommendations no serious objection can be offered. Let the good men who have taken this much-needed work in hand, persevere in their laudable endeavours, and to them will come the blessing of many who were ready to perish.

MORMONISM IN CANADA.

MORMONISM in the United States has ever been a disturbing element. The prejudice against it is as strong to-day as when Joseph Smith and his first followers sought a resting place in the west, only the people exercise more self-restraint and confine their opposition to constitutional means. When transcontinental railroads were opened it was conjectured that Mormonism could not long survive contact with the outside world, and that its collapse in Utah was only a question of time. The American people, the more the Mormon system in its peculiar workings came to be understood, seemed more anxious than ever to restrain the autocratic power of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Recent legislation has in consequence been specially directed against the practice of polygamy, and though not proof against evasion, has proved tolerably effective. The spread of Gentile influence in Utah together with the firm determination of the United States authorities to enforce the law, has made the Mormons very uneasy. At first they were disposed to defy what they characterized as the usurpations of the Federal authority, but now that they see the United States Government is in earnest, they are turning their attention to the best methods of saving themselves.

The Mormon Church is still keeping up its propaganda in Europe, where it picks up adherents among the illiterate. It has also been endeavouring to recruit its ranks in the Southern States, but in most places it meets with determined opposition. It seems that a conclusion has been reached by the leaders that a change of base has come to be desirable. A trial settlement in our North-West Territory was made two or three years ago. The leaders deem that the experiment has been satisfactory, and now there is an evident intention to found a large Mormon settlement in the Canadian North-West. The president of the Mormon Church, accompanied by several of his coadjutors, has been visiting the district, and it is said that a tract of land thirty square miles in extent has been purchased, with a view to the settlement of a compact body of Mormons. It is asserted that they would become peaceable, industrious and law-abiding citizens, and it is not desirable to exclude them if we could. It is also asserted that in settling in Canada they are willing to renounce their peculiar institution, and that whatever theory of marriage they may entertain they are prepared to conform to the Canadian law regulating marriage. On the other hand some of them have been outspoken in maintaining that they have a perfect right to practise polygamy, if they choose, and that there is no law on the statute book of Canada to restrain them.

Now, however undesirable it may be to locate the adherents of a particular Church in one locality, there is nothing to prevent their doing so, but it ought to be understood beyond the possibility of a mistake that Mormon settlement in Canada is permissible only on condition of strict conformity to the Canadian law of marriage. These new comers must be given to understand that no exception is to be made in their case. Polygamy on the part of a Mormon must be punished just the same as in the case of any other offending citizen. No hope of deviation from the strict line must be held out to them. They must find no loop-hole for excuse when they find themselves face to face with the law that they were not explicitly warned what the consequences of infringement would be.

Now that the people of the United States are solving their Mormon problem by vigorous methods, Canadians ought to see to it that they may not have to go through a similar experience. The adoption of clear and well-defined lines of action at the beginning of this Mormon immigration into Canada may save a world of trouble hereafter. The United States authorities declined to permit the Mormon Church to hold property, and this is assigned as one of the reasons why they desire to settle in Canada. Is there

any reason why Canada should be more lenient in this respect than the United States? Indifference now may lead to difficult and serious complications. There is danger in merely permitting matters to drift. If there is to be a large Mormon settlement on Canadian territory, the people have a right to insist that it shall only be on such conditions that it shall not be a menace to morality and an infringement on personal liberty.

Books and Magazines.

MR. GLADSTONE'S second contribution to the *Youth's Companion* deals with an American subject, "Motley, the Historian and Diplomat," whose characteristics he sets forth with remarkable vigour and simplicity. Mr. Blaine has written an article on "Our Government" for the same periodical.

CONCERNING THE OLDEST ENGLISH LITERATURE. By Archibald MacMechan, Ph. D. (Halifax.)—The able and eloquent inaugural address of Dr. MacMechan, Professor of English, delivered at the Convocation of Dalhousie University, has been printed in neat and convenient form. It is a scholarly production.

THE BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATOR. By Rev. Joseph S. Exell, M.A. St. Luke. Vol. I. (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.; Toronto: John Young)—As the title-page of this most valuable work intimates, it is intended to cast much helpful light on the study of Luke's Gospel by means of anecdotes, similes, emblems, illustrations, expository, scientific, geographical, historical and homiletic, gathered from a wide range of home and foreign literature on the verses of the Bible. For the minister the student, the Christian worker in every field, and for the private study of the Gospel by Luke, it is an invaluable storehouse of rich and suggestive material.

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDENT. (New York: C. Venton Patterson)—In the number for November the editorial matter opens with an announcement of a new organization for advancing the study of the Bible. It directs attention to a full prospectus of this organization, "The American Institute of Sacred Literature," which is bound in with the advertising pages. The scope and plan of this "Institute" are very broad and attractive. It merits the attention of our readers. The chief article of this number is an exposition of Cave's "Inspiration of the Old Testament," a book of which the writer speaks most favourably. Other articles are: "The Value of Egyptological Study," by Dr. Wendel, and a study, careful and very instructive, of the words Priest, Prophet and Sacrifice, in the New Testament, from that fine New Testament scholar, recently deceased, Dr. Frederic Gardiner. Professor Beecher continues his discussion of the "Post-exilic History of Israel," and Dr. Harper presents four Bible studies on II Samuel and the times of David and Solomon. A visit to Carchemish, named in biblical history, is narrated by Robert Francis Harper. The usual synopses of important articles, book notices and ample bibliography of Old and New Testament recent publications make up the balance of the number.

PEOPLE'S COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE. Containing the Common Version, 1611, and the Revised Version, 1881 (American readings and renderings), with critical, exegetical and applicative notes. By Edwin W. Rice, D.D. Maps and original engravings. (Philadelphia: The American Sunday School Union.)—In brief compass, yet with sufficient fulness and clearness, Dr. Rice, whose scholarship and achievements in sacred literature eminently fit him for the task, gives the latest and the best results of critical investigation in the Gospel of Luke. The final aim of the book is to set forth "the things that accompany salvation" for the helpful use of every one who takes the volume in hand. It has suggestive applications at the close of every section. The student will find the following convenient features in the work: The text of the common English version of 1611, and in parallel columns the text of the Revised Version of 1881, with the readings and renderings preferred by the American Committee incorporated into the text. The text divided into topical portions suitable for Sabbath lessons in the family or in the Sabbath school. Comments grouped under these topical divisions, and also under each verse, to facilitate the ready reference to any verse or clause of a verse in any chapter of the Gospel. Gleanings from the best works of eminent biblical scholars from the early fathers until now, and especially from Talmudic lit-

erature, illustrating the text. Suggestive applications, designed to aid in impressing the spiritual lessons. Maps and engravings, from original sources (photographs, etc.) to illustrate the narrative. A brief introduction, presenting historical and biblical testimony relating to the authority and authorship of the third Gospel, its composition and language. A special examination into the vocabulary of the Synoptic Gospels, as showing their correspondences and variations. We think no one will make a mistake in buying the "People's Commentary on Luke." It will be an excellent help for the Sunday school lessons of next year, and will be good, not only for 1890, but for a lifetime.

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE LOG COLLEGE; OR THE CRADLE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA. By Thomas Murphy, D.D., pastor of the Frankford Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia: author of "Pastoral Theology," "Duties of Church Members to the Church," etc. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—This is a goodly volume containing upwards of 500 pages with several interesting illustrations. It gives an account of the first planting and subsequent growth of the Presbyterian Church in the United States—an account in short of what might be called the making of the Presbyterian Church in America. The author begins with an account of the preparation of an American Church for America, in the course of which he notices the gathering together of the people from Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Wales, also refugees or the children of refugees from persecution. He dwells on the fact that coming from different lands they all brought with them a sound Calvinistic creed. He gives an account of the provision in all for an educated ministry, the necessity of which soon forced itself on the minds of the Presbyterians. The Log College, an engraving of which appears as a frontispiece to the book, was begun in 1726 by William Tennent, who came to America in 1716. He was originally a clergyman of the Church of England; but his wife, a woman of unusual talent was a conscientious Presbyterian, and probably through her influence and that of her father Mr. Tennent withdrew from the Church of England and entered the Presbyterian. From the Log College, which may be regarded as really the mother of Princeton, and of the other Presbyterian Colleges in the United States, came forth a number of eminent ministers, among whom might be mentioned four sons of William Tennent, Gilbert, William, John and Charles, Samuel and John Blain, Samuel Davis and many others whose names are well known to readers of American Presbyterian Church history. Dr. Murphy, with great fidelity, traces the growth of the Church through its various stages, and enlivens his pages with extracts from the old chronicles of the churches, some of which are quite racy, and remind one of old Session and Presbytery records of the Scottish Churches. What would our young preachers say to such enactments as the following: "It is enjoined that any preacher for the first year after his licensure, shall show all his sermons to some minister in our Presbyteries, on whose friendship and candour he depends, written fairly, to have them corrected and amended. It is also enjoined that they preach as often as they can before stated ministers, that they may correct their gesture, pronunciation, delivery and the like. And it is further enjoined that all our ministers and probationers forbear reading their sermons from the pulpit if they can conveniently." The author, who throughout writes in the spirit of one who loves his work, and who has spared no pains or research in the prosecution of it, afterwards goes on to direct attention to the results of Presbyterianism in America, after the testing of its work for nearly two hundred years. While setting forth the noble work accomplished by the devoted men through whom the Presbyterian Church in America was established and extended throughout the length and breadth of the land, Dr. Murphy devoutly recognizes the guiding and directing hand of God through whose favour and blessing all the progress has been made. In the appendix there is a full account of the grand celebration held on the 5th September on the site of the old college, about eighteen miles north of Philadelphia, at which many thousands were present from all parts of the country, including the President of the United States, the Postmaster-General, and the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, (all three being honoured elders of the Presbyterian Church) and many other distinguished men. The book is one of great interest to all Presbyterians; and it is hoped that it will find its way in large numbers to Canada. Presbyterians in the United States and in Canada are brethren, members of one large family and bound together by many common interests.