

he is delivered from the waste of precious time required by the imperious demands of hollow conventionalities, the incessant round of meetings, the endless calls to talk at meetings, or be talked to, the constant interruptions to study, and social dissipations. The minister in the country, in the work he is doing, his preaching, teaching and pastoral visitation, his frequent and close contact with his people, is exerting a deeper personal influence, is making a deeper mark upon them and more powerfully moulding their life than it is possible for a minister in the city to do. This is admirably expressed in the address of the late Rev. Dr. Robertson, of Irvine, to his Presbytery when he declined a second call to Shamrock street congregation, Glasgow:

"Where is the household in that Irvine church into which, some time or other, during these seventeen years, into whose innermost heart of love the angel of joy, or the stronger angel of grief has not admitted me? . . . Do city brethren rightly apprehend the close relationship between a country pastor and his people? Child of their childless, father of their orphans, brother of them all; entering into all their household joys and griefs in the most homely and familiar way; interested in the father's work and wages, in the children's education, in the son's going to sea, in the daughters going out to service, in the grandfather's ailments, in the very baby's frolics, and in the mother's earnest prayers and keen heart-wrestlings for them all. He lives in them and he lets them live in him, and seeks to interpenetrate their common life with his own more sacred life; and their sorrows, and their troubles, and their triumphs are reproduced on Sabbath in the pulpit; and the moans of their suffering, and the music of their joy, and the questions of their inner life return upon them through his Sabbath prayers and sermons, idealized, corrected, sublimated in the light of the cross and of eternity—he is one with them and they with him identified. Was not this something different from preaching two discourses eloquently to a crowded city audience upon the Sabbath, and losing sight of them as one must do, in a great measure, amid the roar and bustle of the following week?"

The country minister whose work is done in this spirit and who lives among his people in this way must bring to them rich blessing, must reap it for himself, and find in it far more than will counterbalance what appear to many to be the superior attractions of a city pastor's life and work.

CHURCH FUNDS.

AT the present date the Foreign Mission Fund is overdrawn about \$10,000. During the present month the claims to missionaries laboring in the Home field during the past half year, as well as the grants to ministers of Augmented congregations have to be paid. These will amount to nearly \$50,000. By the end of the month the annuities to retired ministers, and to the widows and orphans of deceased ministers, are due, as also the salaries to the missionaries of the Board of French Evangelization. These will necessitate an additional \$25,000, making in all about \$115,000 needed prior to the end of October. This will entail a very heavy expenditure for interest, to obviate which it is earnestly requested that all congregations forward, without delay, whatever money they have on hand for the schemes of the Church, to the Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto. The General Assembly has on more than one occasion strongly recommended this, and repeated the recommendation at its meeting in June last. Fewer legacies have been received thus far this year for the mission work of the Church than formerly, so that increased contributions are required from the congregations, Sabbath schools and Christian Endeavor Societies of the Church. It is more than ever felt that the success of all appeals rests under God with our ministers. It is believed that were they faithful in presenting the claims of the several schemes our people generally would respond liberally.

At the recent meeting of the General Assembly special attention was called by the committee upon the Widows' and Orphans' Fund to the fact that the revenue of last year was \$3,600 short of the expenditure. This was caused largely by the increased number of widows and orphans of recent years on the Fund, and also to some extent because of diminished income from investments. The committee are most anxious that it should not be necessary to recommend to the Assembly a reduction in the amount at present paid to annuitants. This is only \$150.00 per annum for widows, with a small sum for children under eighteen years of age. It is of the utmost importance that the revenue should be increased, and there ought to be little difficulty in attaining this end if the claims of the Scheme were presented by ministers to their congregations.

The total amount received last year from congregational contributions and bequests was \$5,300. A large number of congregations sent no contribu-

tion whatever. It is earnestly hoped that every congregation in the Church will regard it not only a duty but a privilege to contribute to this Fund. The annuities are payable on the 1st Nov., and we trust that during the present month large contributions will be received, not only from the congregations of the Church, but from individual friends, who are interested in the comfortable maintenance of the widows and orphans of the ministers who have been doing the Church's work in bygone years.

The above statement should be enough to impress upon all our ministers, and upon all the intelligent and active members of our Church how urgent the need is for active effort at the present time, and for sustained effort throughout the year, that all our work may be kept up with efficiency. Let us bring all the tithes into the Lord's storehouse that He may pour out a blessing upon us.

A UNIQUE VOLUME.

A MOST unique, goodly, and altogether most befitting volume for the occasion is that which came into our hands a few days ago, entitled "Professor William Henry Green's Semi-Centennial Celebration, 1846-1896," and bearing the imprint of Charles Scribner's Sons. On removing its covering, "Simplex munditiis" were the words which came instinctively, as it were, to mind. On opening it, the first thing to greet you is a portrait of the loved and honoured veteran professor. Then follows a table of contents, including an appendix and bibliography of the writings of Dr. Green, the latter compiled by the Rev. Joseph H. Dulles, Librarian of Princeton Theological Seminary, the whole book making one hundred and ninety-three pages, and costing, net, one dollar and a half. Besides the chaste elegance of the book itself as a specimen of the book-maker's art, that which strikes one after the promptness with which the volume has been got out, is the perfection to the last detail from the first with which the celebration, of which it is a memorial, was arranged for and carried out. Here all is set down with a minuteness, orderliness and good taste which are simply admirable, from the meeting of the directors a year ago until the pronouncing of the benediction at the close of all the proceedings.

It contains, besides the "Introductory Account" of the inception of the memorial celebration, all the addresses given, Dr. Green's reply, the "Alumni Dinner," the "Reminiscence Meeting," the toasts, and speeches of those who proposed them. In looking over and dipping into the book, and calling to remembrance what is well known to every biblical student of Dr. Green's long and distinguished services to the cause of sacred learning, the thought comes unbidden, that he is a great and good man in the best sense around whom all this centred, that he himself and his work deserve and that they will have long and grateful remembrance.

In the appendix are contained, first, "Testimonials and Letters of Regret from Institutions of Learning and Associations," next, "Letters of Regret from Individuals." It is only the most literal truth to say that, in looking over the former, one is struck with the great number of Institutions of Learning in existence, and that it would be difficult to name one of any note in the Protestant and more especially the Presbyterian world, though by no means confined to the latter, on this continent, in Great Britain, or in Europe, which is not here represented; and the letters of regret from individuals at inability to be present on such an occasion, include a galaxy of names of men, eminent for the service they have rendered in the cause of sacred learning in many lands. Such a consensus of high testimonials, such a chorus of congratulations on account of invaluable services rendered to biblical scholarship, and of worth and ability have rarely, if ever before, been heard and brought together in one volume.

Quotations from Press articles come last before the bibliography. Of these alone it would have been easy to collect a volume, necessarily therefore the compiler has here been limited to some selections from the oldest and best known Presbyterian or independent religious newspapers and reviews. The bibliography covers thirteen pages, and by many will be found, though not the most interesting, yet by no means the least useful part of what is, as we have styled it, a unique volume, goodly, and befitting the occasion and the man.

Books and Magazines.

THE PILGRIM CHILD. By Theodora C. Elmslie, author of "The Little Lady of Lavender," "Black Poppy," "Those Midsummer Fairies," etc. Philadelphia: The American Sunday School Union. 75 cts, post paid.

A beautiful book for children is a most durable thing. It is valuable as an object lesson. It should teach the child that it is not to be tossed about like an ordinary plaything, and thrown away when its novelty is gone, but something to be handled carefully and preserved as one of the treasures of childhood's days. It should teach, also, that respect for books so impressed on the young people of former times when books were scarce, but so forgotten now when books are, if possible, too plentiful and too easily procured. This little volume, with its strong cover, decorated in old gold, its clear type, its ornamental head-pieces and initial chapter letters, and its artistic illustrations is a model of its kind; and no prettier or more useful birthday or holiday present could be given to any child who is able to read a simple story. Perhaps, like Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," it may be read without complete understanding; but the memory of it will remain, and, possibly, bring back a straying "pilgrim" to the path he had wandered away from.

Knox College Monthly for August-September is of more than usual interest. Professor W. D. Kerswill, B.A., B.D., contributes "The Illumination of the Spirit in Exegesis," a very important subject; "Conventions, their Use and Abuse," is by Rev. T. A. Watson, B.A. Rev. Principal Caven deals with a subject much needing the consideration of the whole Church, "The Duty of the Church to Her Theological Schools." "The Character of the Babylonian Exile," is the report of a lecture delivered by Rev. Henry Dickie, M.A., at the Summer School of Theology held at Halifax. Rev. Dr. Somerville pays a tender and well-deserved tribute to the memory of the late J. Herbert Brown, whose early death is felt by very many as a great loss. In Missionary Notes, Rev. Prof. MacLaren and Rev. A. J. McLeod, B.A., give "Notes on a Trip to British Columbia" and "Western Indian Work." [Mr. George Logie, Knox College, Toronto.]

The Biblical World is a joy always to look at for its manual execution and good taste in all respects. That for September opens with a portrait and brief sketch of Professor Bernhard Weiss, instructor in the Divinity School of Harvard University. "The Problem of Suffering," a difficult one indeed, is discussed at some length by Prof. Thos. C. Chamberlin, LL.D., of the University of Chicago. "The Faith of Jesus Christ" is treated with ample references to Scripture by Rev. Prescott F. Jernegan. "The Nature and Scope of the Science of Comparative Religion," is discussed by Merwin Marie Snell. The editor, Prof. Harper, deals with "Outline Topics in the History of Old Testament Prophecy." Other important articles are "The Ideal Element in Prophecy," "How should the Bible be Studied in Sunday Schools," "Recent Excavations in Corinth," "Notes and Opinions," "Synopsis of Important Articles" and Book Reviews complete an interesting number. [The University Press, Chicago, Ill., U.S.]

Review of Reviews for this month opens with a likeness of Sir Joseph Lister, the eminent English surgeon, and President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In the notes under the head of "Progress of the World," eighteen are devoted to various phases of the Presidential and money struggle now going on in the United States. "The Troubles of Spain in Cuba and the Philippine Islands," "The Death of Prince Lobanoff," "Armenia and the Armenians," "Troubles in Africa," "Li Hung Chang" and a few English subjects are commented upon. Leading articles are "The Three Strategic Chiefs of the Presidential Campaign," "The Rise of the National Democracy," "Princeton after One Hundred and Fifty Years," and "Jules Simon." Thirty-one pages are devoted to notices of leading articles of the month in the chief serials, books, periodicals and the "Contents of Reviews and Magazines" are all noted, making this Review a great omnium gatherum for busy men and women. [The Review of Reviews Co., 13 Astor Place, New York, N.Y., U.S.]

The Homiletic Review for October asks, "Is the Church ready for a great forward movement for the immediate conquest of the world for Christ?" Its Editorial Note, entitled "The Twentieth Century's Call to Christendom," is attracting wide attention. The October note embodies what is thought of this great proposed movement by the most eminent theologians and educators of the ministry. In all its ordinary features the Review is at its best in this number. Dr. Warfield, of Princeton, writes of "The Resurrection of Christ as a Fundamental Doctrine;" Mr. W. S. Lilly, the distinguished English writer on ethical and literary themes, on "The Danger to Modern Civilization from Popular Shibboleths;" Professor T. W. Hunt, of Princeton University, on "Lord Byron's Life and Teachings." Other able contributors in their various departments are: Dr. H. L. Wayland, the celebrated Baptist editor and lecturer; Professor McCurdy, of Toronto; Bishop John H. Vincent, Dr. E. H. Dewar, the well-known Canadian editor and divine; and Dr. W. S. Pryse. For representative sermons the United States, Great Britain, and the continent of Europe are drawn upon. The illustrative material in this number is abundant. In the "School of Bible Study" Dr. Gregory completes the treatment of the Old Testament, begun in January, bringing it to a close with a comprehensive "Outline View of the Old Testament." [Funk & Wagnalls Co., 30 Lafayette Place, New York, N.Y., U.S.]