

plebiscite, Mr. Haldane points out that what we have to deal with is a law of God and not of man, and accordingly in such a matter a special duty and responsibility are attached to the exercise of the franchise. The argument so often urged as a reason for taking a liberty with the Fourth Commandment, that "the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath," is shown only to justify acts of necessity or mercy, neither of which can well be pleaded for the running of street cars on the Sabbath day. The position which Toronto has taken on this subject in the past, instead of being a reproach is regarded as an honor, and the hope is cherished that her example may be so felt over the whole Province that the Ontario Government will still more fully and carefully guard the Sabbath as one of the fundamental institutions and guarantees of sound legislation on all other subjects. "While we protect the Second Table in the interests of society by penal laws for transgression, the proper maintaining of the first is essential as the power and authority for their adjudication. The idea that the march of civilization is tending to disenthral man from narrow-minded restraints, is not applicable to the law of God. It is essential freedom. Its source and end is love. Our advancing intellects should urge us the more to clear the way for a fuller development of its protective and beneficial influence."

The pamphlet, if carefully read and reflected upon, will help to remove difficulties from the mind of many on this all-important subject. We shall only add in conclusion, that it has received the hearty endorsement of the Rev. Principal Caven and of Principal Sheraton of Wycliffe Episcopal College, as a clear, fair and forcible presentation of the Scriptural argument in defence of the Sabbath.

SABBATH SCHOOL AND W.C.T.U. CONVENTIONS.

IN addition to the first Dominion Christian Endeavor Convention, held lately with such enthusiastic interest in the capital, two others were held last week of great interest, and bearing very directly upon the welfare of the country at large. These were the conventions of the Sabbath School Association of Ontario held in London, and that of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union held at Pembroke.

It appears to be necessary for those interested and engaged in the same work to come together periodically, and the more that facilities for travel and accommodation multiply the more do such gatherings increase in number and size. What are all the periodical meetings of religious bodies, philanthropic, national or social societies, but just conventions, though they may be called by other names? It may be questioned if some of these could hold together but for their meeting in large bodies in one place from time to time. Conventions, then, appear to be necessary, if not indispensable. They afford opportunities for all working in a common cause to see each other face to face, to kindle enthusiasm in the heart, to discuss methods, to take stock and note progress or decline. The social benefits of such assemblages are by no means the least of all that arise from them. The cities and towns where they are held are well repaid for the hospitalities which they extend by an enlargement and enrichment of their social life; workers from the most distant parts of the same country or from different countries meet and by mutual conference better understand each other's plans, secure greater definiteness in the objects they pursue, and return to their several homes and spheres of work greatly strengthened by having felt the momentum and swelling enthusiasm which come from numbers harmoniously joined in pursuit of some great and worthy cause. We could not now do without our conventions, or, to say the least, many a good cause which is to-day marching on from strength to strength, would, without its periodical conference or convention be greatly crippled and its prospects for the future be blighted.

But for these gatherings the public generally would have but little idea of the numbers engaged and of the wonderfully varied forms which Christian, humane and philanthropic work is in our day assuming. Even those who are usually regarded as well informed in such matters, will find cause for surprise, when they see these marshalled together and set down and reported upon in the columns of a newspaper. Here also we may just ask our

readers, and all interested in the advancement of every good work, to note how very much all these conferences and every organization for human weal owe to the press. By their reports given in the papers their influence for good is multiplied a hundred or a thousand fold, and by it the feeblest society in the most distant hamlet of the land is brought within the influence, and made to feel to some extent the warmth and enthusiasm that glowed at white heat at the convention.

By way of illustration of these remarks it could not but be noticed that the attendance at the Sunday School Convention included not only ministers, elders and deacons, women in no small numbers as well as men, but people in all walks of social, industrial and professional life, farmers and farmers' wives, leading members of the bar, and members of Parliament, mechanics and men of business all blended here in happy union, forgetting all that separated them for a time, in the promotion of one grand purpose. They afford the most happy and practical illustration of the truth that Christians of every name and social condition are really one in Christ; they supply the best answer to those who are inclined to magnify the differences among Christians, and point to them as a reproach.

To show the natural tendency of every good work to expand and branch off into many channels, every one more or less carrying with it life and blessing wherever it goes, we need only point to the work of the W.C.T.U. which supplies a most striking illustration. From its first simple reference to the putting down of the liquor traffic, we now find it engaged in "work among sailors," "among coloured people," "among railroad men and shanty men," "for prisoners in gaols," "for the police and for Indians," "flower mission work," "work for Sabbath observance," contending for "purity in literature, art and fashion," effort on behalf of "young women," for the teaching of "temperance in the schools," "work at fairs and evangelistic work," and indeed it would be difficult to name any sphere of effort for good towards which the hearts of Christian women do not go out in the way of practical help. Special interest was given to this meeting from the presence at it and powerful addresses given by Mr. Spence, secretary of the Dominion Alliance, and of Miss Slack, secretary of the world's W.C.T.U.

The following is a summary of the report: Unions reported, 205; active members, 4,585; honorary members, 491; union meetings, 27,192; public meetings, 5,485; Bands of Hope, 84; number of children, 6,005; cash received, \$12,715.48; copies of report distributed, 21; pages literature distributed, 193,107; collected for Armenian Fund, \$1,482. The treasurer's report also, considering the stringent state of the money market, was most encouraging, showing a handsome balance, \$3,842.43, made up as follows: Total receipts, \$2,852.34; disbursements, \$1,687.39; balance, \$1,166.95; emergency, \$449.30; Youngman's fund, \$972.26; lumbermen's fund, \$35.75; total, \$782.63; net balance, \$384.32.

Our limits will not allow us to refer at length to the work of the Sunday School Convention. The subjects presented in the addresses given, their excellence, the discussions which followed, the actual teaching done before the convention, the enthusiasm which pervaded the large gatherings which grew from day to day, the spirit of liberality shown, the presence of such able workers from our neighbors on the other side of the line, must all have exerted a most quickening and enlarging effect, mentally as well as spiritually, which will undoubtedly be felt and seen in the work of the coming year. The Association was certainly fortunate in its last president, Mr. John A. Paterson, and a better selection to fill his place could not have been made than Dr. J. J. MacLaren, Q.C.

With regard to Sabbath School work on this continent one fact only may be mentioned as given by Rev. Dr. Potts, that at the Boston Convention it was shown that in Canada and the United States there was a Sunday School army numbering 13,033,175 and that the increase in scholars for the previous year had been 1,337,972. What a host! How full of hope and promise! Two subjects germane to the work and objects of both conventions, and which evoked much enthusiasm, were practically dealt with in the shape of resolutions unanimously passed; namely, first, the approaching plebiscite on prohibition; and in the Sunday School Conference that of Sabbath observance. No two subjects at the present time are engaging more anxiously the attention of Christian people in Canada than just these two, and both have been without doubt materially helped to that consummation which they all hope for and with which the best interests of our common country are so closely bound up.

Books and Magazines.

SELECT NOTES: A Commentary on the International Lessons for 1897, inductive, suggestive, etc. By F. M. Peloubet, D.D., and M. A. Peloubet. Boston, Mass., U.S.: W. A. Wilde & Company, 25 Bromfield Street.

This series of Sunday school lesson-helpers has attained such a reputation for itself, that we need do little more than acquaint the public with the fact that the volume for 1897 is now published. It contains all those features of maps, illustrations, indexes and well-considered, well-sifted information on the lessons which have marked the preceding twenty-two volumes and made them perhaps more extensively used by Sunday school teachers than any other published on this side of the Atlantic.

HEATHER FROM THE BRAE. Scottish Character Sketches by David Lyall. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company.

This is one of the class of books which have of late years become so popular, depicting Scottish life and character, especially life among the lowly, with what are described in the introduction as "its every-day heroisms, and its consecration of thought and purpose in the well-trodden paths of manly duty and Christian living." It naturally suggests the names and writings of Barrie and MacLaren, but this book and its sketches differ from both. There is not the wonderfully creative genius of Barrie, Crockett, and Ian MacLaren which has given their characters such an individuality that they are like real living beings, and their names have become household words. The object of David Lyall in writing is more distinctly religious than that of the others we have mentioned, and the sketches are pervaded throughout with a spirit of true and devout piety which attracts and deeply impresses the reader, and takes him into a pure and spiritually most healthy atmosphere. They show us one of the best sides of Scottish religious life and character without any exaggeration, and one we think not uncommon. While the effect of the book cannot but be good, the style is simple, natural and attractive, and you lay the work down hoping for and ready to welcome more.

Both Melba and Calvé have musical articles in the Thanksgiving number of the *Ladies' Home Journal* (November), in which the former deals with a number of matters interesting to vocal students, the latter speaking very highly of the attainments and prospects of Americans generally in the realm of song. This issue is, as usual, one of an engrossing character; an ideal magazine for women. Our feminine readers will be interested in knowing that he who has made himself peculiarly their editor, Edward W. Bok, was recently married to a daughter of the publisher, Cyrus H. K. Curtis. [The Curtis Publishing Company, 421-427 Arch Street, Philadelphia.]

We have long entertained the conviction that if our position were such that only one first-class magazine was within our reach we should prefer *Harper's Magazine* to all others. In none of its rivals is there presented such a happy combination of entertainment and instruction. In every number are to be found appetizing morsels of historical and biographical literature, while its narratives of travel and pieces of fiction are invariably of the most entertaining character. Not forgetting the sterling merits of other great magazines, we are distinctly a partisan of *Harper's*. The November number fully sustains the usual high standard. It has merely to be seen to be appreciated. [Harper Brothers, New York.]

There are two features which strike one instantly upon looking through the *Review of Reviews* for November. The political contest across the line is, of course, of dominant interest, but scarcely less attractive is an article on Du Maurier, illustrated by pictures from his pencil, the whole being a grateful reminiscence of a distinguished artist. In the former connection most attention will probably be given by the thoughtful reader to Dr. Lyman Abbot's article "Summing up the Vital Issues of 1896," while Ernest Knauff has, in respect to the latter, given a most unique glimpse into the character and achievements of *Punch's* cleverest illustrator. W. T. Stead writes with characteristic vigor on the Turkish question. [The Review of Reviews Company, 13 Astor Place, New York.]

Ernest Ingersoll, a name of considerable prominence in American journalistic ranks, has given, in the *Century Magazine* for November, a very vivid description of "Election Day in New York." To enable the reader to secure a fuller idea of the events, a number of well-executed pictures are presented in that connection. Duncan Rose discusses the question "Why the Confederacy Failed," attributing it mainly to three reasons—the excessive issue of paper money, the policy of dispersion, and the neglect of the cavalry. "Campaigning with Grant" is an article of more than ordinary interest. "The Olympic Games of 1896" are treated by their founder, Pierre de Coubertin. "The Chinese of New York" are described with great fidelity by Helen F. Clark. [The Century Co., Union Square, New York.]

One of the most interesting articles, where all are of marked interest, in *Godey's Magazine* for November, is that on "The Street Arabs of Michael Woolf." This title will convey at once, to those of our readers possessing a knowledge of the pages of *Life*, an intimation of hilarity and laughter. To any who have not become familiar with the work of this veteran illustrator no better opportunity of beginning a pleasant acquaintance could be wished than is here presented. The numerous accompanying illustrations are characteristic of the artist, and the appended texts are intensely amusing. Another article worthy of note, and one which will give the reader some idea of the duties and perplexities of those who undertake the labors of "educating the people" and "getting the vote out," is that upon "Conducting a National Campaign." [The Godey Company, 52 Lafayette Place, New York.]