

the struggle in the German Reichstag over the Bismarck Septennate Measure. The Clerical party were firmly opposed to its passage, as were also the Liberals. But, as one good turn deserves another, the Papal influence was thrown into the elections, and Herr Windthorst and his followers, sorely against their wills, were discomfited. The Chancellor gained the elections, and in due time carried the Septennate. Bismarck could not do less than withdraw the Falk laws, so obnoxious to his Holiness, and thus the Pope triumphed all along the line. Even then he was not satisfied. He thought the concessions and prestige gained were good as far as they went, but he desired more.

Since the occurrence of these events, numerous rumours have indicated the restless anxiety of the Papacy to appear in public affairs. Nuncios and other intermediaries have been sent scurrying over Europe so that they might take part in prominent State affairs. A foolish matter of precedence gave rise to questionings in the British Parliament. The Papal envoy despatched specially to congratulate her Majesty on the attainment of the fiftieth year of her reign, was received before other dignitaries. But the Secretary of State assured honourable members that it meant nothing. It is a small affair, but the order of reception at State ceremonials is not left to the chapter of accidents. British statesmen, at their wits' end over the perennial Irish difficulty, have in various ways indicated that they would not disdain help from the Vatican. The Duke of Norfolk, Sir George Errington and other non-official diplomats have had conferences with his Holiness. The great British public, however, at sensitive on the subject of foreign interference in their domestic concerns, and the leader in the House of Commons felt constrained to state, in answer to a question by the member for South Belfast, that no proposal to establish diplomatic relations between England and the Vatican had ever been contemplated, nor had any proposal been made by the Government. The English Catholics are strongly opposed to Home Rule, while their Irish co-religionists are equally strong the other way. The former are evidently anxious to obtain an expression of Papal opinion in their favour. The Pope, honest man, has sent a brace of envoys to Ireland to ascertain the state of matters there, and bring him word again. An infallible pronouncement on the state of Ireland will be read with some degree of interest. This much may be assumed beforehand: it will make no final settlement of the Irish difficulty.

It has even been hinted that there is a desire to establish diplomatic relations between Washington and the Vatican. It is not improbable that in certain quarters such desire exists, but its accomplishment, for other reasons besides the McGlynn episode, is by no means probable.

The reconciliation of the Quirinal and the Vatican is occupying the attention of Italian ecclesiastics and politicians. It is supposed that the voting power of the Papacy has considerably increased of late years, and it is therefore no longer necessary to insist on abstention from the polls, but rather to vote for such nominees as receive the Church's sanction. It has been explicitly declared, however, that the restoration of the temporal power is the only condition on which Church and State in Italy can be reconciled. The struggle for the attainment of Italian unity cost too much in blood and treasure to be lightly relinquished. When the Pope demands this he puts a high value on his amity. It is curious that while in some quarters there is a disposition to listen to the siren voice of the Vatican, the French are actually proposing the abolition of the Concordat and the entire separation of Church and State. In the present temper of the French people such a separation would be far from favourable to Papal aspirations.

That Rome is ever busy, ever watchful, to embrace every possible opportunity for the advancement of her claims need not be denied, ought, in fact never to be overlooked, but is it not possible to have an unreasonable and almost superstitious dread of her power and influence? There is no use in belittling that power, or being indifferent to her great and varied resources. If nations respect themselves, are resolute in the maintenance of freedom of conscience and the cause of liberty generally, Rome with all her intrigues will be powerless. The Church that cannot exist side by side with free institutions writes its own death warrant. The peoples of modern Europe and of free America will be intolerant of priestly rule.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—*Littell* continues to furnish its readers weekly with the freshest and best of current literature.

OUR LITTLE FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—The July number of this bright little magazine for little readers is admirable in every respect.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—This weekly publication affords varied, suitable, instructive and finely-illustrated reading for a very large circle.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—So varied are the contents of this well-toned monthly that all well-conditioned youthful readers will find what is suited to their liking in its pages. It delights, amuses and instructs, and by its numerous and excellent illustrations helps to form a correct artistic taste.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—This old-established monthly loses none of its freshness and interest. The present number is one of remarkable excellence, beginning as it does, a new volume. "The Water-Ways of Portsmouth," "An Old Kentucky Home," "Count Tolstoi and the Public Censor," "Is the Railroad Problem Solved?" "Our Hundred Days in Europe," by Oliver Wendell Holmes, afford excellent reading. The "Second Son" and "Paul Patoff" grow in interest as they advance. Other noteworthy features are to be found in the July number.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—This new competitor for public favour, by its varied contents and fine illustrations, shows that it deserves success. The illustrations of the life and times of Bonaparte, the Thackeray Letters, "Seth's Brother's Wife," are continued. The first of a series of interesting papers, "A Girl's Life Eighty Years Ago," and "A Perilous Incognito," by H. H. Boyesen, are begun in this number. Another well-written paper is "The Physical Proportions of the Typical Man," by D. A. Sargent, M.D. Several good poems make their appearance in the July number.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The sermons given in full in the current number of the *Treasury* are on "Venerable Age—Its Trials and Consolations," by the Rev. William F. Morgan, D.D., and the "Christian Ministry and its Work," by Rev. Robert F. Semple, D.D. Dr. Morgan, of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, New York, is the subject of a sketch and pictorial illustration. Leading Thoughts of Sermons contain outlines by several of the most prominent evangelical preachers of the day. Dr. Gideon Draper gives a brief paper on the "London May Meetings." The other contents are both interesting and useful.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—*Harper* this month is fully up to the high standard of excellence to which it has attained. The contents are varied and interesting, and the illustrations are all that can be desired both in number and excellence. The subject of "Great American Industries" this month is "A Printed Book." Cadet Life at West Point is sketched by Charles King, U. S. A. Descriptive papers abound in this number. "A Central Town in the Soudan," "Here and There in the South," and "Mexican Notes" are good examples. Serial fiction, short stories, poetry and the usual departments complete a decidedly good number of this favourite magazine.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The Review Section this month is most attractive. Dr. Jesse B. Thomas contributes to the series, "How Can the Pulpit Best Counteract the Influence of Modern Scepticism?" Dr. Schaff has a brief but interesting paper on "Luther on the Wartburg." Dr. Howard Crosby throws "Light on Important Texts." Dr. Lyman Abbott pays a tribute to "Henry Ward Beecher," and Dr. Arthur T. Pearson continues his "Gems and Curiosities from a Literary Cabinet." In addition to a rich variety in the Sermonic Section, Dr. William M. Taylor discourses on "Individuality in the Christian Life." The other sections are replete with papers of present practical value.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

CENTRAL INDIA MISSION—REV. W. A. WILSON'S REPORT.

In the Neemuch branch of the mission, work has been carried on during the past year along the lines indicated in the previous report.

Delaun Masih has been employed as a colporteur, to sell books and tracts in the bazaar, at the railway station and in the neighbouring villages. He had long experience in this kind of work in connection with the Bible Society, and in former years was very successful in selling books. His sales during this year have been very small, however, and he complains that there is not the same desire for religious literature as formerly.

A vernacular school has been taught by Govind Ram, in the camp bazaar. The boys in attendance are mostly low caste and poor. In addition to the poojah days, when they will not attend, much time has been lost to study by several of the boys who, in the grass cutting season, were taken out into the jungle by their parents to aid in cutting grass.

A familiarity with Scripture history was manifested, which would have been creditable in boys trained in Canadian Sunday schools. The average attendance during the year has been much the same as last year.

A girls' school has been opened in the camp, in which a native Christian woman teaches, under the superintendence of Mrs. Wilson. This form of educational work is a new thing here, and meets with many prejudices and trying difficulties. The children are very anxious to learn, but ignorant mothers do not see any use in allowing their daughters to read, and are very unwilling to send them to school.

The dispensary has been kept open during the year. Medicines are dispensed by a native doctor, at a salary of something less than \$10 a month, who has had two years' practice in one of the U.P. Mission Dispensaries, and who has here earned a good reputation for himself and the mission by his skill. Many lives have been saved and much suffering relieved by his services.

Dr. Burroughs, one of the army surgeons, has kindly given his assistance in some of the more critical operations.

During the year 1,866 cases have been treated, and about 355 operations performed. Religious services are held in the dispensary almost every morning, when an audience varying from five to fifty is obtained. Preaching services have been held in the bazaar regularly. The attendance varied greatly, but a very encouraging interest has been kept up during the year, the Mohammedans still continuing to preach in opposition. The Christian Sabbath services have been specially well attended in the camp place of worship by both Mohammedans and Hindus.

The Gospel has been regularly and systematically preached in the villages round about. In this work I have lately secured the aid of a zealous and intelligent young man who was trained in Secunderabad Mission Orphanage.

During the cold weather we made four large cities in succession centres of work, at each of which we tented for several days. Our plan of work was to go out in the morning to the surrounding villages, when we preached and distributed simple medicines, and in the afternoons and evenings to work in the city or to hold services of preaching and singing at our tents. At most of the places our message was well received. Jerun, Jawad, Mandesaur and Nimbohera were the chief places chosen as centres of operation.

At Jawad, which is reported to contain some 17,000 inhabitants, we were much encouraged by the interest awakened. All classes and ranks, from the chief ruler of the city to the sweeper, came in crowds to the magic lantern exhibition and to the preaching services at our tents, outside the city walls. Much kindness was shown us by the authorities of the city.

At Mandesaur, a city of 27,000 inhabitants, notorious for its wickedness and crime, the Gospel message did not find so warm a welcome. One evening, when I was not with my two native helpers, they were hooted and pelted, and driven out of the city. However, the next morning we returned and preached again, and the only sign of opposition was a low angry murmur in the crowd as we moved away. A good English school would do much to remove prejudice and prepare the way, but I have not felt at liberty to ask the funds necessary for this work. At Jawad also there is a fine opening for school work, and I have been again and again pressed to institute a school there.