

the papers by Rev. J. Somerville, of Owen Sound, and Rev. S. Houston, of Kingston. The spirit pervading the entire conference was earnest and devout, and its influence for good will doubtless be long and extensively felt. What has been noticed in former years was again observable on this occasion—the elders were silent listeners. They assisted at the conference only in the French sense. It is not meant that they were uninterested or that they did not enjoy it, and derive good from it, or that in their work they will be uninfluenced by it, only they did not participate in the discussion of the important subjects introduced. The elders have a perfect right to take their part in the consideration of the topics presented. They would be the better for it, and their ministers would derive benefit from the remarks of their brethren in the eldership. It would help to bring pulpit and pew into closer touch and deeper sympathy with each other.

The sermon by the retiring Moderator was fresh, original and inspiring. As it appears on another page readers can judge of its qualities for themselves. Few will be disposed to question our affirmation that it is specially worth reading. Dr. Parsons was unanimously called upon to fill the highest position of honour in the gift of the Synod, and it is needless to add that he discharged the duties of the chair in an impartial and courteous manner to the satisfaction of all. The faithful work of another officer of the Synod, performed in a kindly and unobtrusive manner, deserves recognition. The Clerk, the Rev. Dr. Gray, of Orillia, has long rendered faithful and valuable services to the Church, and as Synod Clerk he is carefully attentive to every detail. The votes of thanks passed at the close of the Synod were not mere matters of form. They were richly deserved by all specified, yet the thanks of the Synod were equally merited by its esteemed and courteous Clerk.

No exciting question emerged to ruffle the calm with which the regular business of the Synod was conducted. There were no wranglings, no invidious references, nothing to wound the most delicate susceptibilities. These may be considered negative blessings. But the character of such blessings can readily be understood by those who have attended numerous Church courts. There is surely indication of an advance to a higher plane when these disagreeable features have become memories of the past. The reports presented had light and shade in them sufficient to encourage and incite to greater earnestness and zeal in the special work to which the members are respectively called upon to engage. Fraternal intercourse and the inspiring influence that pervaded the meeting will be felt for many days to come. The Synod meeting at Peterborough will remain long as a happy memory with most if not with all who were privileged to be present.

SABBATH LEGISLATION.

WE give below the *Hansard* report of Mr. Charlton's reply to the proposal of Col. Tisdale, of South Norfolk, that the Sunday Observance Bill should be strangled in committee. The motion before the chair was that the committee should rise. Votes in committee of the whole are not recorded, and a motion that the committee rise is a very convenient way of defeating a Bill without facing the responsibility of being on record upon the division list. Mr. Charlton was naturally indignant that a Bill endorsed by almost every Church court in Canada, and a portion of which had been accepted by the Minister of Justice, should be thus summarily thrust out. Col. Tisdale's motion carried, but on the following day, devoted to public business, Mr. Charlton moved to have the Bill restored to the order paper, and the motion was agreed to. The Speaker was in the chair, and if a vote had been taken the names would have gone upon record—a responsibility that many opponents of the Bill shrank from assuming.

Mr. Charlton said:—

The Bill which is now under the consideration of the committee, as the honourable member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) very truly says, is a Bill that I have presented to the House on two occasions before this, or a Bill of a similar character. This, however, is the first action taken by the House of Commons on this Bill. The Bill as now presented was reported by a select committee last session, and that select committee with all deference to my honourable friend from South Norfolk, took a view of this matter quite different from his own. The committee eliminated from the Bill every portion of it that came within the purview of provincial legislation, and retained only such features as, in their opinion, pertained to Dominion legislation. There were six sections of the Bill eliminated, there were four sections retained, and the four sections retained by that committee are the sections now under the consideration of this House. The first of these sections is that with reference to the publication of Sunday newspapers. Now, my honourable

friend, the Minister of Justice, while not agreeing with me as to the propriety of making this provision with regard to the publication of Sunday newspapers, did agree that it was within the jurisdiction of this House and of this Government to make the provision that this Bill shall be made. With regard to the canals, of course, it is not necessary to inform my honourable friend that the Provincial Legislatures of this Dominion have no jurisdiction in the matter; and when he says he considers it a reflection upon the Government that the House of Commons should define what the Government is at liberty to do with regard to canals, I quite disagree with the honourable gentleman. I think that this House is charged with certain functions, that it is not necessary to delegate its functions to the Ministry, and that it is no reflection upon the Ministry, no reflection upon the Government of the day, to discuss the question temperately, and after discussion to arrive at a decision, as representatives of the people, as to what policy the Government shall follow with regard to the management of canals. Now, the Minister of Justice was kind enough to indicate to me some days ago the action he proposed to take with regard to the second section of the Bill referring to the canals, and while the proposition of that honourable gentleman does not go so far as I could wish, while it comes short of what I believe to be the proper requirements of divine law and a proper regard for the welfare of the subject in securing to him his seventh day's rest, yet I shall be glad to accept his proposition if I cannot get more. I intended, when the Bill was referred to the committee, to accept the suggestion of my honourable friend, the Minister of Justice, and having accepted that suggestion and secured what he was willing to grant, if I could get no more, I would perforce have been satisfied with that. Now, I do not think the honourable member for South Norfolk, in taking the position he does upon the Bill, will commend himself very strongly to the Christian sentiment of this country.

An honourable member. Yah.

Mr. Charlton. I hear a derisive yah. The Dominion of Canada is a part of the British Empire, and the British Empire is a Christian nation, and the Queen of this Empire is declared to be the Queen and Defender of the Faith by the grace of God; and there are laws upon the Statute-book of every British colony, there are laws upon the Statute-book of Great Britain, providing for the observance of the Lord's Day; and to assert gravely in this House that it is derogatory to the dignity of the Government of this country, and a piece of interference on the part of this Dominion Legislature with the rights of the people, to make provision within our jurisdiction for the proper observance of the Lord's day as a day of rest, and to act in consonance with legislation of the Empire, is a position I am surprised to see the honourable gentleman take. The honourable gentleman alludes with some facetiousness to my want of success in presenting this Bill. Sir, I am accustomed to that kind of raillery. I introduced a Bill into this House some years ago and it was hooted out of the House. I introduced it again, and it was treated with a little less disrespect and contumely; I introduced it a third time, and it secured a small measure of respect; I introduced it a fourth time, and it passed, but it was thrown out by the Senate; I introduced it the fifth time, and it passed here and the Senate treated it with some measure of regard; I introduced it the sixth time, and it passed this House and passed the Senate; and the leader of this House, the Minister of Justice, has since approved of the features of that Bill and has even gone further than the Bill at first asked the House of Commons to go, although the Bill was at first scouted out of this House. Now, this Bill I present to-day is a Bill of far more importance than that; it is a Bill that commends itself as thoroughly to the Christian and moral sentiment of this country as that Bill did. Honourable gentlemen in this House who are opposed to this kind of legislation, may rise and cast discredit upon the sentiment that backs the Bill, but if God spares my life, if that Bill is thrown out to-day, it will come in here again, it will come in as long as I have the honour to sit in this House, until that Bill becomes law. In introducing this Bill I am sustained by the Christian sentiment of Canada, by the worth of Canada, and I can inform the honourable member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), and I can inform other members of this House, that it would be well for them, at least to treat this matter with respect and to give to men who have convictions upon this subject the benefit of supposing they are acting honestly in pursuing their convictions and are worthy of fair treatment by this House. Of course at this stage of the matter, the Bill is in the hands of this committee. I do not know what course the leader of the Government intends to take, whether he intends to implement his promise to me, embodied in the memorandum I hold in my hand, which covers the amendment he proposes to make to section 2, or not. Of course, I am in his hands. If he proposes to withdraw from that arrangement, and if he declines to carry it out, and if the majority of the committee choose to rise, the Bill is lost. I rest the matter there; I rest it, first, on the decision of the Minister of Justice; and, second, on the decision of the committee as to what should be done.

In his endeavours to bring this matter to a successful issue Mr. Charlton has displayed great courage and zeal, and he ought to receive the encouragement and support of the Christian community. In the meeting last week of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, there were several references to his proposed measure, all of them expressing the most cordial approval. It is not a party measure, but one that the Christian people of Canada, irrespective of political predilection, can cordially approve and support. The member for North Norfolk does well to follow the precedent set by members of the British House of Commons, who when they press legislation for the moral elevation of the people have the Christian conscience on their side, persevere session after session despite opposition and discouragement, until these measures are placed on the Statute-book. It requires no prophetic gift to affirm that in substance Mr. Charlton's Bill for the better observance of the Lord's Day will yet be passed by the Canadian Parliament.

Books and Magazines.

By her will, Miss Amelia B. Edwards has endowed a chair of Egyptology. Her large and valuable library she bequeaths to Somerville Hall, Oxford.

THE eighty fifth volume of *Harper's Magazine* will begin with the number for June. The first instalment of James Russell Lowell's papers on "The Old English Dramatists" will appear in this number.

THE writings of Mr. Gladstone fill twenty-two pages in the printed catalogue of the British Museum. His most popular work, the pamphlet on "The Vatican Decrees," ran through 110 editions and was translated into several languages.

MRS. ANNE THACKERAY. RITCHIE's new book, "The Light-Bearers," comprising her papers on Tennyson, Ruskin and the Brownings will soon be published by Harper & Brothers. The volume will be enriched with portraits and numerous illustrations.

MR. ALBERT SHAW, whose valuable studies of the municipal governments of London, Paris and Glasgow have already appeared in the *Century*, will contribute to the June number of that magazine an article on "Budapest—The Rise of a New Metropolis."

"BOOK NEWS" for May (Philadelphia: John Wanamaker) has a detached portrait of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the poetess, and the usual profuse information about all the new books of the season, what they are about, and the price they sell for. *Book News* is an invaluable aid to those who want to keep up with the literature of the day.

WE have just received a copy of the Patti Waltz Tyrolienne, composed by Charlie Baker. It is simple and remarkably pretty, can be played on piano or organ. The title page contains an elegant photo of "Adelina Patti," the world-renowned songstress. It is very neatly printed, and is published cheaply by Baker & Helmick, New York.

"THE Last Words of Thomas Carlyle" is the title of an important book to be published immediately by the Appletons. It contains Carlyle's only novel, "Walton Reinfred," which was left among his papers. According to Froude and Leslie Stephen some characters in this novel were drawn from Coleridge, Irving, Thackeray, and other of Carlyle's contemporaries.

THE engravings in the *Illustrated News of the World* are of fine quality and present to the reader a vivid impression of the people and events that are for the time being largely in the public eye. In addition to the excellent literary features of the paper, there are attractive reproductions of noted pictures by eminent artists. For example, in the last number there is two-page copy of Alma Tadema's "A Reading from Homer."

WILLIAM MCLENNAN's Canadian sketches, written in the picturesque dialect of the French habitant, will be concluded in the June number of *Harper's Magazine*, with the strangely tragical story of "P'tit Barouette," appropriately illustrated by C. S. Reinhart. These "Melchior" tales, although apparently hard to read on account of the spelling, comprise the most faithful pictures of certain phases of backwoods life in Canada ever yet presented to American readers.

THE Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia, whose Toronto agent is Mr. N. T. Wilson, has commenced a valuable and timely series of "Papers for the People." The second of the series is on "Conformity to the World." It was written by the late Dr. Howard Crosby, of New York. It is a strong, clear, reasonable and effective protest against the prevailing worldliness that is impairing the strength of the Christian Church and dwarfing Christian character.

FAR OUT ON THE PRAIRIES. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: N. T. Wilson.)—The scene of this very interesting story, chiefly, though by no means exclusively, for young people, is laid in Dakota. It is written by an experienced and able hand, though the author's name does not appear on the title page. Like all the books of its class issued by the Philadelphia Board of Publication, it is instructive and refining in its influence and intended to help in the building of a pure and devout Christian character.

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDENT. (Hartford, Conn.: The Student Publishing Co.)—The May number opens with a paper on "The Development of Paul's Belief," by Professor George H. Gilbert. Dr. Goodspeed has a second paper on "Shakespeare and the Bible." Professor Alfred M. Wilson writes on "The Character and Work of Josiah." Dr. Nathaniel I. Rubinham, of Bâle, contributes a fine paper of what promises to be an interesting series on "Old Testament Study in Switzerland." The usual departments contain much that is valuable and instructive, and the number as a whole is of marked excellence and ability.

DIXON ON INGERSOLL. Ten discourses delivered in Association Hall, New York, by Rev. Thomas Dixon, jr., with a sketch of the author by Nym Crinkle. (New York: J. S. Ogilvie.)—This paper-covered volume forms one of the cheap series of popular works issued from the house of the publisher whose name is given above. The lectures in reply to Ingersoll and the agnostic position are able, eloquent and convincing. From the sketch by "Nym Crinkle" (a racy journalistic critic, who writes under that *nom de plume*), prefixed to the volume, the reader will learn not a little that is interesting concerning a young preacher who has earned a popular reputation in New York city.

THE third number of the *Korean Repository* has reached this great continent of the West. It has intrinsic merits and interest, and has an added interest since it comes from a land of which the inhabitants of this western continent know comparatively little. The *Repository* has a scientific and ethnic value, inasmuch as there is a learned dissertation on "The Korean Alphabet," illustrated by a table giving the letters of that alphabet and its equivalents in Manchou, Thibetan and Sanscrit. There is a short paper on "Eventful Days of 1892, and the Most Critical Days of the Present Century." It may be stated that the subject of the paper is not theological or sociological, but meteorological. "What Shall we Teach in our Girls' Schools" is intelligently discussed by Miss L. C. Rothweiler. The most interesting paper in the number is the concluding portion of Rev. J. S. Gale's descriptive paper "To the Yaloo and Beyond."