

ings and wishes the new paper and its editor large success.

—Dr. Cuyler believes that at the present day emphasis is needed upon the importance of so preaching the truth of God that men shall be roused to a sense of their sinfulness and clearly apprehend their need of a divine redemption. The redeeming love of Christ is never so glorious, never so winsome, never so overpowering as when it is presented against the background of human sinfulness and weakness and guilt. The only conversion worth having is a conversion down to the roots, and no preacher is likely to have many such converts unless he puts the Bible plough into the conscience beam deep, and tears up the native depravity, and makes room for the precious seed of the gospel. The man who preaches the most faithfully and lovingly for souls will always have the Holy Spirit with him.

—A very serious hindrance to the success of missionary work in China is the great difficulty of acquiring a scholarly knowledge of the language. This is difficult not only for the missionaries but for the Chinese themselves, so that comparatively few of the common people can read, and after they have passed youth it is almost impossible for them to learn. The difficulty is largely in the Chinese alphabet, in which the characters represent not primary sounds but syllables. The Independent says that there is a movement among the missionaries to apply the Roman characters to the language. This has indeed already been done to a certain extent, and the American Bible Society has printed the Gospels in Canton Colloquial and the Epistles in Hinghua Colloquial in the Roman alphabet. The testimony on every hand is that wherever the use of the Roman alphabet has been tried it has proved its value. A year of careful study, it is said, is scarcely sufficient to enable the ordinary convert to read with ease and pleasure a single page of the Sermon on the Mount in the classical language, but a boy in ten days was able to do more reading on the Romanized plan than he would have done in as many years on the other. It is believed that if the Chinese can be persuaded to relax their conservatism so far as to accept the innovation the work of evangelization will be much more rapid.

—Sometimes when, in the course of debate, one has advanced a statement or an argument which seems to him to have an important bearing upon the subject under discussion, he is met, not with a demonstration that his statement is untrue or his argument unsound, but with the assertion that what has been advanced will give comfort to the supporters of some bad cause; and the implication is that a statement which can be so wrested from its legitimate purpose is not worthy of further consideration however true it may be. Such a method of disposing of an argument may be effective in the interests of debate, but it is hard to see how men who really have the cause of truth at heart can persuade themselves that it is legitimate or wise. There is no good cause which can afford to ignore a truth for fear the recognition of it may for the moment seem to put a weapon into the hands of the adversaries. We have it on good authority that Satan can quote Scripture in defence of his diabolical purposes, yet we should be slow to conclude that those who wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit were not well employed. It is more important to be loyal to truth than to score a triumph against the emissaries of Satan.

—We are pleased to give place in another column to the letter of Rev. E. A. Whittier, in which he commends to the fellowship of Maritime Baptists Rev. J. H. Parshley, who has recently become pastor of the First Moncton church. The recognition services took place on Monday evening of last week. The new pastor appears to have been given a very cordial welcome and one which we trust has made him feel quite at home in his new surroundings. Among those who took part in the services were President Trotter; Rev. Dr. Gates, a former pastor of the Moncton church; Hon. H. R. Emmerson, President of the Convention; Rev. C. C. Burgess, Moderator of the Eastern Association; Rev. Mr. Bates, of Amherst, and several of the pastors of sister churches in adjoining towns. We learn that Mr. Parshley has made a very favorable impression in Moncton. He is the third pastor to come to us from New England within a few years. The others have won recognition among us as good and able ministers of Christ, and we have no fear of too much Yankee influence when to the honorable names of Bates and Hatch that of Parshley is added on our roll of ministers. If we should name all the good men we have given to New England churches during the past twenty-five years, the list would be formidable. It is but fair certainly that now we should be getting some good men in return. The MESSENGER AND VISITOR desires to extend greeting and welcome to the new pastor at Moncton. May the pastorate be long and happy and abundantly fruitful.

### Arrows from a Hunter's Quiver.

CITY LIGHTS AND SHADOWS.

When Sankey was at Massey Hall a short time ago and sang, "When the mists have rolled away," just as he

concluded the sun burst forth from the dark clouds and flooded the hall with a golden light—a testimony of nature to things of grace.

A promising career was suddenly cut short in the death by typhoid fever, in this city, of James E. Furguson, B. A., formerly of Hantsport, N. S. We were classmates at Wolfville in '91. After much toil and sacrifice he had graduated in law at Osgood Hall and was just entering into his profession when dread disease laid him low and he was gone before we knew it.

Recently two robbers entered the store and dwelling of one J. E. Varcoe, of this city. While plying their diabolical business Varcoe, who was sleeping, was awakened, but was covered by their revolvers. And while they were making off with his money he interfered and was shot, from the effects of which he soon died. One of the robbers was shot and the other was captured while seeking to escape. The former has since died, and the latter, though Varcoe, a Christian, pled with the authorities to deal kindly with him, is now on trial for his life.

Rev. C. A. Eaton greets the public this week with a unique publication, entitled, "For Troubled Hearts." This book reveals that Pastor Eaton, like his Master, has a heart that beats in sympathy with human life and yearns to bear the burdens of others. It ought to have a wide sale.

Dr. Newman, of the University, will soon have his church history from the press of A. B. P. S. This work of more than 600 pages will be a most valuable standard contribution of its kind, and will, no doubt, be eagerly sought after and read by a wide circle who are anxious to become conversant, combining scholarly research with broad sympathy and justice.

Chancellor Wallace has been devoting a good deal of time and energy of late to the University extension fund and has met with a good degree of encouragement and success. Any thing to which he sets his heart and hand is most likely to be pushed to a successful issue.

Toronto, Dec. 1st.

J. HARRY KING.

### Our Work in Manitoba and the West.

Bro Adams has done well in calling our attention to the possibilities and needs of our own Dominion. This branch of our missions may for the present take precedence in the list of our denominational enterprises. Never before in our history have our churches been brought face to face with such a number of claims in one. In this department we have Home and Foreign Missions, education, together with the political and commercial interest of our home land combined. So it is that our love and loyalty to Christ and our love and loyalty to our country find a rare opportunity for expression in the support of Manitoba and Northwest Missions. One of the best helps that can come to our churches is a wider and fuller intelligence of all that inheres in this mission. Our pulpits and our denominational press may here find in part their present vocation. By the report of the last annual Convention of our churches in the West good cheer comes to us. We have men whom God delights to honor with the gifts and graces of his Spirit as toilers and tillers in this wide field. Substantial progress is recorded. The future of our churches in the West is brightening as the years go by. Joy comes to our hearts that the dear young men who represent the Baptists of these Provinces in the West are doing so nobly, but as we add up the contributions of our churches for this cause a painful desire for a large increase of men and money discounts the joy.

South Ohio, N. S., Dec. 4th.

J. H. SAUNDERS.

### Opportunity and Responsibility.

"And the Spirit of the Lord said unto Philip, go near and join thyself to this chariot, and Philip ran thither."

Opportunity is often seen with its back toward us, and hasting away. To the one who is not prepared for a quick run it is soon lost in the distance, and successfully eludes the most persistent and eager search.

The Spirit timed the going of the eunuch and the going of Philip, and made the opportunity. The Spirit was watchful and anxious and Philip was alert. If he had been preoccupied with worldliness the Spirit's message would have found him unprepared, and before a preaching mood had taken possession of him, the prime minister of the Queen of the Ethiopians would have been beyond his reach.

Extreme sensitiveness to the Holy Spirit's message is a prime quality for Christian workers. Nothing but an extremely sensitive photographic plate can be used for a "snap shot." Some of the Spirit's messages bidding us do some work for the Master, are snap shot messages—so suddenly does the opportunity arise and so quickly is it gone. While we hesitate over the message the one for whom it is intended gets away. Some boys are adepts in killing time when they are sent on errands. Some Christians apparently put God's messages in their pockets or lay them on a shelf when they receive them—although they are marked "post haste"—while those for whom they were intended pass into eternity, thus making it impossible for them to be delivered. God forgive us for such neglect. When we receive the next one let us do as Philip did—start on the run with it.

Nictaux Falls, Dec. 9th.

J. W. BROWN

### New Books.

Select Notes. A commentary on the Sunday school lessons for 1900. By F. N. and M. A. Peloubet. Illustrated. Cloth, \$1.25. W. A. Wilde Company, Boston and Chicago.

The Select Notes for 1900 comes to us filled with exe-

getical and illustrative matter, of a kind which has made the preceding volumes so important—even indispensable to the well-equipped Sunday school teacher. Certain new features appear in this volume which doubtless will make it even more valuable than any of its predecessors. Among these new features are to be noted the following:

A New Harmony forms the basis of this year's study on the life of Christ. A chronological chart in seven colors fixes the dates simply and effectively.

The splendid colored bird's-eye view of the Sea of Galilee, with the very carefully prepared Lesson Plan, and the use of the new revised text references are each so helpful that one cannot fail to appreciate their importance.

The volume is printed from new type made for it, and illustrated with beautiful pictures, maps, and drawings. All in all, it far excels its twenty-five predecessors, and makes a handbook to the Gospels, not only for use in connection with the International Lessons, but for handy reference for years to come.

The December Magazine Number of The Outlook, dated Dec. 2nd, is the Eleventh Annual Book Number, filled largely with illustrated special articles on new and recent books and on interesting literary topics. The scores of advertising pages in themselves furnish an extremely valuable and remarkably complete guide to holiday books.

The books of the season really worth knowing about are discussed in the Eleventh Annual Book Number of The Outlook (December Magazine Number) under the three general heads "In the Field of Fiction," "History and Biography," and "Books and Art," while the same issue contains also three personal literary articles, "Weimar and Goethe," by Hamilton W. Mabie; "Reminiscences of Thoreau," by an inmate of Thoreau's family, and "A Visit to Jokai," by Edward A. Steiner. All six of these articles are illustrated. (\$3.00 a year. The Outlook Company, New York.)

The Suffering Saviour and Other Sermons. By Daniel Shephardson, Jr., Ph. D. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company.

Dr. Shephardson is engaged in evangelistic and Bible study work, and the thirteen discourses which this book contains have been delivered in the course of his work. They are published in response to the request of many who have heard them with benefit. The sermons seem to be abundantly worthy of being perused by a larger audience than that which could be reached through the living voice of their author.

British Foreign Missions 1837-1897. By Rev. R. Warlaw Thompson, Foreign Secretary to the London Mission Society, and Rev. Arthur N. Johnson, M. A., Home Secretary to the London Missionary Society. London: Blackie & Son, Ltd., Toronto: The Copp, Clark Company, Ltd.

The subject of this book and the names and official positions of its authors are a sufficient guarantee of its value. Its aim, as the title indicates is to give a brief account of the growth and progress of British Foreign Missions during those 60 years of Her Majesty's reign 1837-1897. The introductory chapter gives a short account of British Missions up to the year 1837. Chapter II. and III. set forth the advance of these Missions in the East, Africa, America and the Pacific Islands. The next five chapters describe the special developments which have been made in Education, Medical Missions, Woman's Work, Literature and Native Churches. The last chapter sums up the present position, and in an appendix statistics of the leading societies will be found. The book is furnished with a full index and contains much readily available information concerning the progress and the encouraging results achieved by the leading British agencies for the evangelization of the world.

David's Enemy. By Rev. Ingram Bill, Jr.

This booklet of 14 pages discourses the problem of the Imprecatory Psalms. The author holds to the opinion that the enemies against whom the psalmist utters maledictions were spiritual rather than material.

For Troubled Hearts. By Charles Aubrey Eaton, M. A., Minister of the Bloor Street Baptist Church, Toronto. Toronto: The Poole Printing Company, Ltd.

The author of this little book is a man of wide sympathies, great industry and versatile ability. He is a successful minister, beloved and admired by his people, and in addition to his ministerial duties writes regularly for the newspaper press, and finds time for an occasional Magazine article. He is an earnest student of social science and interested in whatever makes for human welfare here and hereafter. The book before us contains 130 pages and about as many "little messages" which, as the author tells us, were given from week to week in a Sunday leaflet to his congregation, in the hope that they might prove of help to troubled hearts. With the same purpose they are now given a more permanent form. They will doubtless prove helpful to those who are seeking for the light. Perhaps with as much propriety the book might be entitled, Seed-thoughts for sermons, for almost any of these "messages" might easily be expanded into an extended and profitable discourse. Here is one of the "messages" which we quote as a fair sample of the contents of the book! It is entitled, The Books. God reveals himself to the mind in his Word-Book—the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork. The unbeliever says, "When I consider the heavens." The Christian says, "When I consider thy heavens." To one the world is full of law, to the other it is full of God. The Word-Book reveals God in his matchless power and wisdom. In the Bible—the Word Book—God makes himself known to the moral nature of man. The whole scheme of redemption flashes its white light over the dark depths of sinful human nature and reveals its helplessness under the law—it is hope in the free grace of divine love revealed in Jesus Christ. The believer steps reverently through the world for he is ever in the presence of God, and within him he feels that God, the loving Father, is present as an indwelling life.