

public affairs. He is of opinion, and he adduces several good reasons for it, that every citizen should be compelled to vote. This, he thinks, would give the electorate a realizing sense of their responsibility, and quicken the perception of their duties as citizens. On the trade issues now agitating the public mind he indicates that he is unfavourable to a restrictive policy, and suggests closer trade relations with the Mother Country.

What he says of the men and women who have made this country and of his hope that their descendants will continue to display the same indomitable endurance that enabled their fathers to hew out happy homes from the virgin forests of Canada will meet with general endorsement. The following are the concluding sentences of his eloquent and masterly address:—

Not by these things does a country live. A country lives and lives in history by what its people are. Very little thought did the men who made Canada give to tariff questions. They were men who lived simple lives, and no privations shook their hearts of oak. Everything we have owe to them, and the more firmly we stand on their foundations and get back to their simpler manners, robust faith and sincere patriotism, the better for us. We are living in a critical period. We need strong and true men. These will be given us if we are worthy of them. Let us take our stand on what is right, without any fear of consequences. All sorts of bogeys will be used to frighten us, all sorts of temptations to allure us from the path of honour. Against all these stand fast. Remember how the spirits of our fathers shone out again and again like a pillar of fire when the night was darkest. Oh, yes, we come of good stock. Men emigrated to this New World who knew how to endure. They hoped to found in the forests of the west a state in which there would be justice for all, free scope for all, fair reward for labour, a new home for freedom, freedom from grinding poverty, freedom from the galling chain of ancient feuds, mutual confidence and righteousness between man and men, flowing from trust in God. They knew that there was no other sure foundation, no other permanent cohesion for the social fabric. These men yearned and prayed for the country. They were poor, yet they made rich all who came in contact with them. Some of them are still with us in the flesh, for Canada is only in its infancy. Let the knowledge that such men laid our foundations hallow our aims and give us faith in the country's future. I never despair.

THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

IN planetary systems two distinct forces are clearly recognized, the attractive and repellant. In social life there are two impulses that in a measure balance each other. There is a strong desire inherent in man's nature to retain things as they are and to oppose all change; there is also an instinctive desire to ameliorate the evils inseparable from existing conditions and to strive after the realization of higher ideals. Both have their proper place in the conduct of affairs, and both are occasionally apt to run to extremes. There is no such thing as absolute immobility and rest possible in this world. The course of events is not fixed but flowing. In efforts to retain what has been achieved there is often apparent a lack of discrimination. It is possible to conserve abuses and wrongs as well as to preserve what is worthy of perpetuation and extension. Again there are blind forces impelling men to rush forward to the untried and the unknown as if any change of whatever character would necessarily mark advancement. There is, however, a progress downward as well as upward, and in these days of varied speculation and unrest there are some who profess to be prepared to take desperate leaps into what many deem nothing short of the wildest anarchy.

Change is one of the conditions of progress. Within the last quarter of a century much has changed. Things may not appear to move rapidly but if a point a few years back be selected and the state of things then be compared with that now existing it will be found that progress is definitely marked. Last week a most interesting convention was held in this city—and by the way Toronto is being recognized as an excellent place for holding conventions of various kinds. The eighteenth annual congress of the Association for the Advancement of Women met here. Twenty years ago it would have been the fashion to poke fun at the gathering and the changes would doubtless have been rung on the strong minded ladies who were bent on making incursions beyond their proper sphere. The papers of that time would—to adapt Tom Hood—have “turned to mirth all things of earth as only” journals “can.” Instead of that the members of the Congress have been individually and collectively most cordially welcomed by a number of representative bodies in the city, and the press without exception has treated the Congress in a generous manner. In all this there is evident progress. There is a growing spirit of fairness. Whatever body of men or women espouse a cause for which they desire a hearing the opportunity will not now be denied them. They will not be met by unrea-

soning ridicule, even if some of their new-fangled proposals appear extremely ridiculous. Whoever has got anything to say to the public may count on an opportunity of saying it.

While this change in public sentiment regarding women's movements is perceptible, a great many remain unconvinced as to the desirableness of some of the things they advocate. Were the conviction more common than it is that what are usually denominated woman's rights ought to receive general approval, there is still much prejudice to be overcome. So strong is the power of custom that immediate and speedy changes in the direction sought by the leaders of the Women's movement cannot reasonably be looked for. They, however, are not of the kind to be easily discouraged. Evidently they have resolved to work steadily and earnestly on the lines they have laid down. The scope of the Association that met last week is sufficiently broad and comprehensive, affording room sufficient for the consideration of all questions in which they are interested and which have relation to the ends they have in view. For instance, possibly all the delegates to the Congress are avowedly in favour of the extension of the political franchise to women. Whatever may be said for or against that sweeping change, it is not now within measurable distance of adoption. In their advocacy of the proposal they are neither unreasonable nor precipitate. They do not follow the methods of some one-ideaed reformers that imperatively demand all or nothing. On the contrary, while omitting no fitting opportunity for the advocacy of their claim to the full rights of citizenship, they devote their attention to whatever in their judgment is best fitted to promote the elevation of woman in every sphere she occupies. The question of Woman's political enfranchisement will continue to be discussed, and it will occasion no great surprise if in time it should generally be conceded. After it has been enjoyed for a few years it may be found other and different in its results from what was anticipated. Its opponents will no doubt be disappointed. Conferring on women the right to vote will not cause a revolution, neither will it be likely to produce the dire evils that those opposed to the concession are accustomed to prognosticate. On the other hand the possession of the franchise may be disappointing in its results. No measure of reform yet adopted has turned out as enthusiastic promoters predicted. Making all allowance for a shrinkage in the glowing rhetoric to which those who sometimes try to rouse the popular conscience give unbridled rein, the woman vote may not be essentially different from what popular election is now while restricted to male hands. It is expected that women generally will be on the side of moral and social reform, but what may be the complications by an enlarged franchise cannot yet be predicted. It is not now manifest that women generally desire to possess the right to vote, neither is it evident that if they did they would generally use the privilege. Experiments on a limited scale have been tried but they are by no means decisive. It is, however, highly probable that in the future women will be politically enfranchised, and it is not likely, to say the least, that political life will fall below its by no means elevated present level. If it can be raised by the extension of the right of women to vote, by all means let the privilege be extended.

In the region of education and of practical philanthropy the Association for the Advancement of Women is doing admirable work. The papers read and the discussions they originated give ample evidence that on the great practical questions of the time these women think seriously, and are earnestly endeavouring to check the evils that hurry social life along the down-grade. The theories and suggestions of some may be impracticable, but the freedom with which they were discussed is an evidence that nothing calculated to throw light on social problems will be overlooked.

Woman's sphere is widening, and it is well to see that she is becoming more alive to larger responsibilities. And yet she has a sphere from which she cannot well retire. In the home with all her benign and tender influence she rules supreme. It is her kingdom by divine right. If the importance of the home is diminished it would be a loss for which other gains would scarcely compensate. The nation that is indifferent to the sacred claims of home life, and the moulding influences that it alone can supply will have within it a source of weakness impossible to remove by other means. Whatever good may be accomplished by woman in the world's wide field—and there are magnificent possibilities for her energies and devotion—the Christian home will still afford a fitting sphere for her holiest ministry, and from it will come the polished shafts, the pillars of the people's hope.

Books and Magazines.

JAMES CALVERT. *Of From Dark to Dawn in Fiji.* By R. Vernon. (Toronto: Archer G. Watson, Willard Tract Depository.)—Missionary Literature is constantly receiving new accessions. Of late many valuable works have appeared recording the triumphs of the Gospel, and pressing home on the Christian conscience the duty of extending Christ's kingdom in the regions beyond. “James Calvert” is a most interesting little work, and whoever reads it will be the better for the time spent over its pages. It is well written. It is a good piece of work conscientiously done.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—The new volume, the seventh, of the *English Illustrated* begins with the October number. An engraving from another of the National Gallery portraits, a likeness of Leonardo Loredano, Venetian Doge, forms the frontispiece. Algernon Charles Swinburne contributes a lengthy poem, “An Autumn Vision,” marked by the characteristic power and beauty of his best work. The illustrated papers are “The New Trade Union Movement,” “The Vicar of Wakefield and its Illustrations,” “In New Guinea” and “Edinburgh,” by Mrs. Oliphant. The first two chapters of F. Marion Crawford's new serial, “The Witch of Prague,” and several poems complete an excellent number.

PERSIA: EASTERN MISSION. A Narrative of the Founding and Fortunes of the Eastern Persia Mission. With a Sketch of the Versions of the Bible and Christian Literature in the Persian and Persian-Turkish Languages. By the Rev. James Bassett, author of “Persia: Land of the Imams.” (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: N. T. Wilson.)—Attention has recently been drawn afresh to Persia by the Shah's visit to Europe. This prepares us to read with interest anything that throws light upon that country. Mr. Bassett is well qualified to write on the subject, having been a missionary in Persia for many years. The specific object of this volume is to give the principal facts in the founding and fortunes of the Presbyterian mission in Eastern Persia. The book is full of information concerning the work of this mission as well as regarding the religious condition of the people. It contains twenty five illustrations specially prepared from photographs which will aid the reader greatly in forming true conceptions.

THE TREASURY FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The October number of the *Treasury* shows, in no department, any evidence of falling off. Dr. Mathews, of St. Louis, has the place of honour, his portrait forming the frontispiece, and his capital sermon on “The True Incentive” heading the Sermonic department. There is also a lively sketch of his life with a view of his Church. Dr. G. H. Smyth's sermon on “Queen Esther's Devotion to her People” is rich with fine thought and practical lessons. These are followed by three very helpful articles on “The Thanksgiving Service,” President Killen, of Belfast, Ireland, discusses in a historical, discriminating manner, “The Rise of Pre-lacy and its gradual Development,” “Diversities of Religious Experience,” by Rev. W. A. Dickson, is a thoughtful article that will be read with profit, and Professor Watts' Critique on Professor Drummond's “Greatest Thing in the World,” cannot fail to excite earnest thought and searchings of heart. No one should fail to read Dr. Wharton's article on “Organized Sunday School Work, a Solution of National Problems.” Other leading papers are on “The Money of the Bible,” by the Curator of the British Museum. “How to be a Pastor,” and “Fireside Religion,” by Dr. Cuyler. These with other valuable features make an unusually excellent number.

THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW. (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.; Toronto: D. T. McAlinsh.)—The opening paper in this masterly quarterly is from the pen of Alfred H. Kellogg, D.D., of Bryn Mawr, Pa. It is an able discussion of “The Egypticity of the Pentateuch.” Christian Van der Veen, of Olivet, Mich., in a lengthy paper exhaustively treats of “Biblical Limits of the Presbyterian System of Government.” Dr. Jacobus writes on “Country Missions”; Professor McCloskie on “The Testimony of Nature,” and Professor Morris on “The Religious Consciousness.” “The Proposed New Chapter in the Form of Church Government” is discussed by Professor W. H. Roberts, Rev. R. M. Patterson and President Francis L. Patton. Professor C. W. Shields in “Historical and Critical Notes” has an elaborate paper on “The Doctrine of Calvin on Infant Salvation.” In the same department the Rev. Charles Leaman, of Nanking, writes on “The Conference of Missionaries to China,” and Dr. Worden, of Philadelphia, comments on “The Sixth International Sunday School Convention.” The Editorial Notes are: “The Rev. Ransom Bethune Welch, D.D., LL.D.” by Professor W. J. Beecher, D.D., LL.D.; “The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America,” by Rev. Talbot W. Chambers, D.D., LL.D., and “The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada,” by Principal William Caven, D.D. Whatever is noteworthy in theological and general literature finds a place in the ample and admirably conducted department allotted to literature.

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND. For readers on this side the Atlantic. By Rev. William Cleland. (Toronto: Hart & Co.)—This is a fresh contribution to ecclesiastical history, which deserves a cordial welcome. It narrates the rise and progress of Presbyterianism in Ireland, and shows that it has sent out vigorous offshoots to other and distant lands, and that it has had a marked influence on the moulding of Presbyterianism on this continent. Leading up to the special purpose of the book there are introductory chapters on the Civil and Ecclesiastical History of Ireland from the earliest times, and an account of the Reformation in Ireland. The vicissitudes of the Church are detailed with a care and fidelity highly commendable, and the narrative is brought down to the present time. Mr. Cleland has shown himself eminently qualified for the task he has undertaken. He is perfectly at home in his subject, and has made it his aim to be accurate. There is no undue expansion of the abundant material at his disposal. Instead he has studied brevity, and gives evidence that he understands the virtue of condensation. His style is clear and pellucid. The book is neat and tasteful in appearance, and is every way fitted for wide circulation; it deserves to have a large constituency, and is sure to make a good impression wherever it goes.