

work. Others might be mentioned, but will no doubt suggest themselves to any minister who will take the matter into careful consideration.

But, what then? Can we expect perfection in the ministry; are not all human beings faulty? Yes, truly, but we are not comparing ministers with laymen; we are merely trying to open the eyes of ministers to some of the things which hinder their work and which it is in their power to change.

We have no sympathy at all with the popular notion that a minister should be judged by a higher standard than that which his judges are willing to apply to themselves; God makes the same demands upon all men. But we do know that a minister who wants to win souls for Christ and to be a source of strength to believers must apply to himself a much higher standard than that which his neighbors generally are willing to accept for themselves.

Especially must the minister avoid professionalism. It may be correct in a sense to look upon the ministry as a profession; but the professional minister, that is, the minister who magnifies himself on account of his office, will always be a stumbling-block rather than a stepping-stone to the people among whom he moves. —*New York Witness.*

Ignorance of the Bible.

Once our fathers had few books, no newspapers, no facilities for communication with the world, and the Bible and the "Pilgrim's Progress" were almost the only works accessible among the people. Then the Bible had the first place, but now it has been dethroned by the pressure of modern life, until the generation in middle age and their children are growing up so ignorant of even the Bible stories, to say nothing of its great truths, that they do not understand them in the ordinary intercourse of life, or in their relation to literature. The Bible stories have heretofore been one of the treasures of childhood, but now they are not familiarly known.

This ignorance has begun to show itself in life. An American house, extensively engaged in the manufacture of stained glass windows, reports that the demand for biblical subjects represented in this form has greatly fallen off, because those who are ordering them for the churches are so ignorant of the Bible that they do not appreciate the fitness of a Bible story for this purpose. They have to be taught their Bible before they can rightly value the art which they desire to employ. In other days the richest forms of stained glass have been those that reproduced the familiar scenes of the Bible, and their lessons.

What shall be done to restore the Bible to its place? We are not a religious people, and do not have enough regard for sacred things to adequately maintain that side of life. The preference of sentiment to religion in art indicates that show takes the place of reality, and perhaps there is no better illustration of where our weakness lies; but if the Bible is not to take its old place in the church and the home, it is not to lose its hold of life. It is the greatest literature of the world. Its appeal to us is on the highest plane. It is inexhaustible. It may be less authoritative through a transitional period, but the time is not distant when it will again be read, not perhaps, as an oracle, but as the one book which reveals us most to ourselves, and as the treasury of the highest truth that has yet been given to mankind. It is the strong conviction of those who have given the Bible most attention, that it is only temporarily neglected and that when it ceases to be a fetish its matchless truths will stand out in brighter lustre than ever before. The Bible has not passed away because this generation is less familiar with it than other generations have been. It is the literature of the Hebrew people, and it is so wrought into our institutions and into all that belongs to our highest life that it can never lose its place as the chief teacher of the human race.

Straight Through.

I am not sure that it is a good plan to attempt to read the Bible straight through from beginning to end every year. Still, that it is a good deal better than not reading it at all. If you do undertake it, the following schedule for finishing your task—if such it be!—within one year, has been furnished by an exchange:

January—Read Genesis and Exodus.
February—To the tenth of Deuteronomy.
March—To the end of First Samuel.
April—To the end of Second Kings.
May—To the end of Nehemiah.
June—To the one hundredth Psalm.
July—To the end of Isaiah.
August—To the twentieth of Ezekiel.
September—To the end of the Old Testament.
October—To the end of Luke.

November—To the end of Corinthians,

December—To the end of the New Testament.

This division gives about sixty-five or seventy pages per month, or about two pages for every day in the week, and four pages for every Sunday.

Looks into Books.

MISSIONARY HEROINES, by Mrs. C. R. Pitman, price 50 cents. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto.

The writings of Mrs. Pitman are not unknown to those who take an interest in missionary work and the present little volume, quite bears out the reputation established by its predecessors. The subjects of (if we may call them) the four biographical sketches are, Mrs. A. M. Rutchquist, Mrs. Bowen Thompson, Dr. Mary McGeorge, and Miss Mary L. Whatley. The little book is profusely illustrated and contains many interesting and pathetic scenes from actual missionary experience.

The concluding chapters of the "Personal Recollections of John of Aro" are given with illustrations by F. V. Du Mond, and from Lenepveu's painting and Fremiet's statue. Mr. Black's "Brisels" approaches the climax of its action. The fiction includes "The Voice of Authority, a short story of Paris and Buttebury, Nebraska, by E. A. Alexander, with illustrations by John W. Alexander; "A Spring Flood in Broadway," a study of New York life, by Brander Matthews, with illustrations by W. T. Smedley; and "The Missionary Sheriff," by Octave Thanet, illustrated by A. B. Frost. Mrs. Katrius Trask contributes a fine poem of considerable length, "A Night and Morning in Jerusalem," and there are poems by Alfred H. Louis, Julie M. Lippmann, and Margaret E. Sangster. The "Editor's Study" and "Editor's Drawer" complete a varied and attractive Number of "Harper's Magazine" for April.

The Easter number of the *New York Ledger* has a remarkably beautiful design on its cover—a girl holding down a bough of apple blossoms that completely enshroud the youthful figure, which treads upon spring flowers and grasses.

This number of the *Ledger* has a charming story, entitled "Her Easter Gown," by the author of "Jack's Easter Hymn," on its first page; delightful Easter poems by Mrs. Kidder and Mary Mitchel; an interesting article on "The Moral and Religious Character of Abraham Lincoln," by Rev. S. T. Willis; continued stories by Laura Jean Libbey, Seward W. Hopkins, John R. Musick and Effie Adelaide Rowlands, together with the *Woman's World*.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE LAND TO THE BOOK, by Rev. David Gregg, D. D. Neatly bound in boards, imitation leather 35 cents. E. B. Treat, Publisher.

Dr. David Gregg, pastor of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, received a letter from Flinders Petrie, the great explorer, and Secretary of the Victoria Institute, informing him of his election as a member of the Philosophical Society of Great Britain and Victoria Institute. This honor is conferred upon Dr. Gregg as a recognition of the worth of the little book which he recently published, entitled "The Testimony of the Land to the Book, or the Evidential Value of Palestine."

This work presents the arguments of the Bible derived from topography and explorations. It is a work up to date, and is as interesting as a novel.

APRIL MAGAZINE ARTICLES YOU SHOULD READ.

A phase of Modern College Life, by Henry T. Fowler, in "Harper."

The Old Olympic Games, by Allan Marquand, in the "Century."

Lord Leighton, by Cosmo Monkhouse, in "Scribner's."

An American Heroine in the heart of Armenia, in "Review of Reviews."

About Flying-Machines, by Tudor Jinks, in "St. Nicholas."

Contemporary Swedish Art, by J. McDougall, in the "Art Amateur."

Consider the Lilies, by Nancy Mann Waddle, in "Ladies' Home Journal."

Light on Scriptural Texts from recent discoveries, by Prof. McOurdy, in "Homiletic Review."

The North Pole Problem, by Admiral A. H. Markham, R. N., in "North America Review."

Hyphnotic States, Trance, and Ecstasy, by Prof. William R. Newbold, in "Popular Science Monthly."