

rendered. The good Samaritans are not yet in a majority in any one community or congregation. The result is that much valuable work for Christ is left undone altogether, and perhaps not a little of that accomplished is too superficial. The division of labour is not a principle of so exclusively a worldly nature that it need be debarred from the Christian Church. As there are diversities of gifts, so there is an appropriate and useful sphere for their exercise. In the lovely home at Bethany, both sisters, though of different temperament, were devoted to the Lord. They represented different types, the active and the contemplative; and it is not without significance that the commendation is bestowed not on her that was numbered about much serving, but on the receptive and contemplative Mary. It was for no selfish end that Martha was concerned; it was simply her method of showing her gratitude and love for the Master that occupied her attention. It was this that distracted her thoughts from a higher and more spiritual service.

For Christian activity, if it would prove effective, there must also be the receptive mind. The spirit that is stunted and starved by undue pressure, even if labouring for the good of others, cannot render the full service which could be done by a spirit that is in health and prosperity. In the spiritual as in the material realm there is such a thing possible as scamp labour. The more general diffusion of Christian work, each engaging in that department for which the individual is best adapted, the steady and unspasmodic continuance in well-doing, and above all the consistent and every-day manifestation of living practical Christianity, would speedily transfigure the face of modern society.

#### CRIME IN ONTARIO.

AN examination of criminal statistics shows that there has been a notable decrease in crime in Great Britain during recent years. While this gratifying state of things is visible in the Old Land, it appears that in the United States crime has been on the increase. Of late United States papers, both secular and religious, have been endeavouring to account for the steady increase of the criminal population in that highly favoured land. There is unanimity in attributing it to the large influx of foreigners into the United States who have fled from other countries to escape the consequences of their lawless acts, but who have brought with them unchanged their criminal propensities. The annual report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities, presented to the Ontario Legislative Assembly, shows that the criminal record of the Province is not so heavy during last year as it was in the preceding year.

The total number of commitments for the year ending September 30, 1886, was 10,645, a reduction of 781, as compared with the previous year. There were 8,831 adult men committed charged with offences. This is 588 fewer than in the year before. The number of boys committed was 352, a reduction of ninety-eight. Of adult women 1,424 were committed, showing a reduction, as compared with 1885, of eighty-three; and of girls, under the age of sixteen, the number was thirty-eight, twelve fewer than the number arrested in the former year.

The total number arrested for crimes against the person is given as 907, 136 under the number of arrests for this class of offences in 1885. For crimes against property 2,314 were arrested last year, a diminution of 775 compared with the previous year's return. Those charged with crimes against public morals and decency numbered 346, thirty fewer than the returns of a year ago. For committing offences against public order and peace there were 6,350 commitments in 1886, while in the previous year the number was 321 higher. The unfortunates who were detained as prisoners for contempt of court, debtors, lunatics, etc., numbered 728, five over the year preceding. The largest number in this class was composed of those described as lunatics and persons dangerous to be at large. Here unfortunately, there is no decrease, as the number of commitments is 470, forty-seven more than the year before. For persons in this melancholy condition, shelter and treatment should be found elsewhere than in common gaols and prisons. The number of arrests for drunkenness throughout the Province, shows a decrease of 141, compared with the previous year, although the total is still surprisingly large, being

3,555. Of the 10,645 persons arrested, 2,285 were convicted, and were consequently discharged.

The nationality of those arrested last year was as follows: Canadians, 4,995; Irish, 2,226; English, 1,839; natives of United States, 736; Scotch, 565; born in other countries, 284. Of the total number of persons arrested, 3,709 were married, and 6,936 unmarried. As to their habits, 3,246 are classified as temperate, and 7,399 as intemperate. In relation to education, 8,415 are returned as being able to read and write, and 2,230 destitute of these elementary educational qualifications. Then, as to religious classifications, we have the following: Roman Catholic, 3,844; Church of England, 3,461; Methodist, 1,371; Presbyterian, 1,311; other denominations, 658.

The total expenditure on the maintenance of Ontario gaols for the year was \$133,744.26. That amount was paid for rations, fuel, salaries and wages and repairs. Crime is always costly.

The diminution of crime, as shown in these reports, is certainly gratifying; though it is not very marked or striking, it has to be remembered that there is a constant increase in the population, and then the improvement becomes more apparent. Education alone, it is evident from what has been already stated, will not repress evil doing. Some of the most daring experts in crime are highly educated, but that does not save them from evil courses. Mere education gives additional facilities to the criminally disposed. Moral training is indispensable. The Ten Commandments should never be suffered to become a dead letter. But the message of the gaol to the Churches is, be instant in season and out of season to bring the young under the power of the Gospel. Where the Gospel is sincerely believed and practised, crime and vice cannot flourish.

#### Books and Magazines.

QUEEN VICTORIA. Scenes and Incidents of her Life and Reign. By T. Frederick Ball, with ninety-four illustrations. Fifth edition. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—This is a jubilee volume, and it has everything in its favour to make it very popular. It is written in a bright attractive style, and sets forth the many virtues of her Majesty, and details the principal incidents of her long and prosperous reign. The illustrations are numerous and vivid. It is a work that is certain to obtain a wide circulation.

WHAT HARM IS THERE IN IT? By Byron Laing. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—In writing on subjects of great practical importance the author of this excellent little work speaks modestly but plainly and scripturally on amusements and cognate topics. He gives good advice that ought to be heeded by every one who desires to live a pure, upright Christian life. The work has met with encouraging success, appearing now in a second and enlarged edition. Dr. Withrow writes a brief commendatory preface, and there is a paper on "Ecclesiastical Amusements," by Rev. Marvin Vincent, D.D.

HOURS WITH THE BIBLE; Or, The Scriptures in the Light of Modern Discovery and Knowledge. By Cunningham Geikie, D.D. (New York: John B. Alden.) To all students of the Holy Scriptures, this will prove a most interesting and helpful book; to all who are not, but ought to be, readers of the sacred volume, this work will enable them to see what they lose by not making the Bible their daily counsellor. The present volume embraces the period from Samson to Solomon and is enhanced by engravings designed to illustrate the text. No one who has read Dr. Geikie's "Life of Christ" will question his competency as a Biblical scholar.

THE BAPTIST QUARTERLY REVIEW, edited by Robert S. MacArthur and Henry C. Vedder. (New York: The Baptist Review Association.)—This quarterly is a credit to the denomination under whose auspices it is published. The latest issue contains several papers written with great ability, and breathing a fine Christian spirit. "The Glory of the Redeemed as related to the Work of Christ," by Herman Lincoln, D.D.; "The Christian Solution of the Labour Problem," by Rev. A. E. Waffle, and a carefully written and interesting historical sketch of "The Moravian Baptists," by Professor Albert H. Newman, LL.D., of McMaster Hall, Toronto, afford attractive and profitable reading. There is a symposium on "Co-Education," to which no fewer than eight noted educationists contribute.

#### THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

##### COUNTRY LIFE IN SHANTUNG PROVINCE—FAMILY ARRANGEMENTS.

No matter how many sons there may be, the custom is for each one when he marries to bring his wife to live at the old homestead. Wings are built to the house from time to time as more room is needed. There is one family of Christians connected with our Church in which there are no less than thirty mouths, as the expression here is. The grandfather, in his eighty seventh year, is still active in mind and body. There are five generations all living around one court. The open court, enclosed by a high wall, is a very important part of a Chinese home. No home opens directly into the street, but all into the court. Here trees grow. Here stand the mill-stones and mortars where grain is prepared as required for the kettle, as in Bible lands. Pigs, chickens, ducks and dogs have their home here. Mules, donkeys, cattle and sheep usually have their open stables on one side of the court. In this court the moon is worshipped, and at the New Year a temporary tent is erected for the Father who lives above the clouds, and food, wine, incense and prostrations are offered. There is often cold weather here, especially when the storms blow from the ocean. Snow and ice abound, yet there are no stoves, fireplaces or any arrangements for heating the house.

The custom, for all who can afford it, is to put on extra cotton-wadded garments, furs, clothing made of sheep or goat skins, etc. If the cold is excessive, the bed is heated, and the family sit upon it with their feet drawn under them until the weather moderates.

##### INDUSTRY.

A large proportion of the people derive their subsistence from cultivating the soil. Cabbage, turnips, cucumbers, melons, onions, garlic, etc., form an important element in the food of all classes. Everywhere gardens for their cultivation abound. Frequently in the centre of the garden, and near the well, a hut is erected in which the gardener sleeps to protect his crop. Sometimes temporary lodges, made with poles covered with straw or matting, are erected so that the sleeper is high above the level of the ground.

This recalls the Bible allusion to the lodge in the garden of cucumbers, Isa. i. 8. Frequently women take their work to this lodge, and watch during the day, selling melons, cucumbers, etc., to travellers. Fruit orchards and vineyards have to be guarded in the same manner day and night. In a land where thieving abounds, and where there are no fences or hedges to protect the fields, vigilant watchmen are an essential. Each missionary family is obliged to keep a night watchman to protect their house.

##### THE THRESHING FLOORS

adjoining each village consist of small plats of ground levelled, pounded and rolled, until they are smooth and hard. As soon as grain is cut or pulled it is bound on mules or donkeys, and carried into these open floors, the heads are cut off and threshed with flails, or more commonly by stone rollers drawn by mules. The grain is then thrown up with shovels, and the wind separates the chaff from the grain. As in the days of Ruth, men sleep on the threshing floor during harvest. The grain is stored in the house, and the straw stacked for fuel. During harvest crowds of women and children follow the workmen, gleaning in every corner of the field; not a head or a straw escapes them, and most are not content without stealing handfuls on all sides. The owner is often powerless to protect his crop, and is obliged to see no small portion of it thus carried off.

##### SHEPHERDS.

There is a class whose business it is to take care of flocks and herds. Here sheep and goats are always found in the same flock. The sheep are all white, and have broad tails of immense size. The goats are black, and have long straight horns standing upright. The allusion in Matthew xxv. 32 is very striking. The flocks seldom belong to the shepherd or to one man. In the morning, at break of day, the shepherd drives his flock from door to door, and gathers the little groups until the number is complete.

He then follows the flock all day in its roving on the hills, along the streams, or wherever grass can be found. If the shepherd, by falling asleep, or from any other cause, permits grazing on the cultivated fields he is heavily fined. At night he returns to the village, frequently carrying a little lamb which has been lamed, or is unable to keep up with the flock. Every sheep or goat seems to know its own gate, and enters as the flock is driven past, and there remains for the night. Cattle are similarly herded.