Presbyterian Review.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1889.

REVISION OF THE STAND-ARDS.-"WHITHER."*

44 INTHITHER" is a valuable and VV timely contribution to the discussion of the very important question of the Revision of Church Standards, in all denominations, and par-We have, however, no wish to shirk it. There must be progress - a living Church, and as the Church has received a palpable accession in our day to its life and energy, it becomes us prayer fully to ask in what direction the good Spirit of God is guiding His Church, and to follow. There may be difficulties, the fiery cloudy piliar of Jehovah's presence is nevertheless going before, and we must leave our old camping ground at His call, taking with us the Ark of the Covenant and all God's divinely appointed ordinances, although we may have to leave behind many accretions and human inventions which our fathers found useful, and to which they had become attached, but which are not suited to the altered circumstances the age in which we live. In doing this we only repeat what the living Church in every age has, done; what the Westminster divines and the Reformers, were they in our place, would most assuredly do. When, therefore, the tribes of Israel are loosening their tent-pins and preparing for the coming glorious advance, it is well to ask with Dr. Briggs. Whither? Heartily do we commend this volume to all our ministers, and quite as much do we urge on our intelligent laymen a careful perusal of this spirited and able enquiry.

Like all that the learned professor writes, "Whither" is in its style clear, trenchant, racy, confident to a fault, radical and daring-we do not say rash or reckless, for what is written has been uttered deliberately, thoughtfully, with a purpose and under a full sense of the effect it is likely to have. He says, "Progress is possible only by research, discussion and conflict. The more conflict the better." Accordingly, with teat and courage he grasps his spear and rushes to the battle. Many a hard blow he strikes-sometimes it may be wrongly aimed and under mismercilessly criticises are evidently brethren whom he loves and whose merits he is the first to acknowledge. We rise from perusing the volume without one feeling inconsistent with love to all the brethren, nay, we rather wonder how it is possible that all these kind words regarding some of the Church's enemies could be penned by one who sees so clearly the errors and evils they have brought upon her.

Dr. Briggs deals with not only the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms, as the exposition of the Puritan doctrine of the seventeenth century, but also with the Directory for Public Worship and the Form of Church Government. He sets forth clearly the changes made in the American Church in these Standards, and considers also the theology of the traditionalists or dogmaticians, as he styles them, of the present day, in order to show how widely different, on many points, are the doctrine and practices of the Church now from what they were among the Puri tans of two hundred years ago, and how they have been affected by continental influences. He says that modern Traditionalism errs (1) by excessive definition, or extra-confessionalism; (2) by failure and neglect, or infra confessionalism; (3) by teaching what is opposed to the Confession or contra-confessionaliem. In expounding this ample indictment he finds full opportunity to done. A return to Westminster doctaught. Then the maintenance of the examinations in connection with this pose of bringing the matter before in-

the development of the truth.

longs for the organic union of Christendom, and while not blind to the im

to allow greater freedom in subscription, place to those who will work. or in harmony with the greater light of as the American Church has done; or In its praiseworthy desire to obtain but that sanctification continues in the of registers provided ample machinery, has the following: gradually attain before the judgment to that perfect holiness without which they cannot see God. Also, he says: "The time is coming when the Church and individual Christians may be able to schools and the Presbytery. Sabbath in "the Quarterly and Annual Sumber of the Review, it was to be under the charge of one editor from Union Theological Seminary and one editor from Union Theological Seminary an attain that ideal of holiness in this life," School superintendents and secretaries, During these ten years Princeton Seminary has dealing as they do with many imand that the living, when the Day of Judgment comes, will be holy before they are changed. While implicitly denying probation either in this life or after death, he, nevertheless, makes the by introducing some uniform system fered seriously in their views on the subject of separate state a period of progess in and then working it to its utmost capagrace, and certainly invalidates the city. Many excellent schemes in Sab-Westminster teaching that the "souls bath School work, as in other depart-of believers at death are made perfect ments of Christian effort, fail—not for in holinger and do immediate reason for the real and immediate reason for the real and immediate reason for the suspension of the Review is a personal difference between the two editors, into which it would be of no profit to enter. Other branches of the evangelical churchs in our land have had their in holiness and do immediately pass lack of machinery, but because there is ed. may be wrongly aimed and under misapprehension, nevertheless the book
from beginning to end is free from bitterness; even those whom he most

The denies a "private or to keep it going when once started.

We would respectfully remind the Comthe pleads also for co-operation with

The Union was unable to find any man to represent it as unable to find any man to represent it refers to no find any man to represent it represent it as unable to find any man to represent it represents it in the presbyterian Church. The readers of Dr.

Gregg's "History of Presbyterianism in the Comthe pleads also for co-operation with

The Union was unable to find any man to represent it as unable to find any man to represent it represent it as unable to find any man to represent it as unabl the Church of Rome, as if that were sion that the present system of registers possible while the Roman demand is has not yet been generally tested. We inconditional culture the Professors who desilied to the professor define on eschatological questions, on have used it, that, if fairly tried, it will cult position, with all its cares, anxiety and from the Sermons and other writings the salvation of infants, on the descent not be found wanting in any important sure and failure, and with all its risks as to cenof Walter R. Brooks; "Unknown sure and failure, and all without any possibility Switzerland," by Victor Tissot. Illusinto Hades, the salvation of the heathen, particular. It is, nevertheless, to be pre- of pecuniary reward. The labours of the ediand such questions, although God's sumed that if use shall demonstrate the tors on both sides have been very arduous, Word affords almost no light regarding desirability of making changes in the them. Surely there is a mistake in all registers, the publishers will, as a matter this. Liberty of opinion, it must be of course, fall in with the sugges this. Liberty of opinion, it must be of course, fall in with the sugges granted, is at present enjoyed on the tions of the Committee. secret things which belong to the Lord. but it is inconsistent with that liberty to require every one to say what becomes of infants or the heathen, or what takes place in the separate state, deductions of reason.

will come in God's good time.

OUR SABBATH SCHOOL

WORK.

W report of the proceedings of the to furnish them, at lowest rates, with cess in the work. The first week's sub-General Assembly's Sabbath School unfermented wine for communion use, scriptions amounted to nearly \$10,000 refer to almost every controversy that is Committee, that the work entrusted to It was also decided that the work of a number of our wealthy men contributnow agitating the Churches, and he does it is being vigorously pushed by the extending the franchise to women be ing \$500 and some others \$1,000. not hesitate in the most oracular man- indefatigable Convener, Rev. T. F. pushed forward as vigorously as pos- It is hoped that others will devise even ner to tell his readers what should be Fotheringham, and that its efforts to sible. A resolution was also adopted more liberal things. Mr. Burns has ficulties presented by Calvinism as now have been made for holding the first of an officer in each county for the pur generous response. Westminster doctrine regarding the Scheme on the 7th and 8th of March spectors and teachers, and also

Sacraments, the Church and State, mar- is to be hoped that the Scheme will dealing with the subject of social purity, riage and divorce, would lead to a more have a fair trial in all the Presbyteries. it was resolved: charitable relation to Roman Catholl- We are very hopeful that the high excism, and afford a safer basis for the pectations of the Convener and the future. While on all eschatological Committee will be realized, and that, to Mr Charlton for his efforts in behalf of this questions, regarding which he considers with the judicious handling of details by That the attention of the Government be called the Westminster Standards very descent those entrusted with carrying them out to the obscene pictures given in connection with the sale of eigarettes, and frequently falling into the hands of boys, and also to the sum opinion and doctrine as necessary to great good to the Church, and become, moral literature which still finds its way through in the best sense of the word, popular the post-office, In order to understand Dr. Briggs' amongst our young people and those position we must bear in mind that he who are most immediately concerned adopted; with their training.

of Europe and America. The question is on us; we cannot shirk it if we would. Suggested, he hopes and seems to being fuller statistics than as yet have been is on us; we cannot shirk it if we would. lieve that common ground will be found on which not only all evangelical Protestants, but even extreme Ritualists and this direction will depend very largely to assist any Prohibition candidate to any Roman Catholics, can be united. Hav- on the energy with which the Convener office. ing this glorious object in view he in each Presbytery devotes himself to a duty to perform to the students in our cities, desires to remove all obstacles and to the task of collecting and collating and the young men and women who are embrace an endless variety of opinions returns from individual schools? He is for wisdom and direction, we pledge ourselves and practices in the Church of the the pivot on which the statistical part to do all in our power to remove temptation from their way. Let every white ilbbon woman in the Dominion, who has a son or daughter sistent effort on his part, we are per-We are far, indeed, from accepting building like a compre building suite and therefore is free to apply to them for any service that Christian mothers hensive and accurate report can be and sisters can render. Anything less than tion of Christendom. He may do good obtained by the Presbytery. If the would be unworthy Christian temperance work as an iconoclast, but his mission Presbytery Conveners do their work is not to build up. We are not con-well, then the Synods, and therefore vinced that the best way to meet the the Assembly, will have no reason to publication of The Presbyterian Review of its class. The October number condemands for progress is to revise the complain. If they will not do the work Confession; rather does it seem feasible they should resign at once and give

separate state, so that infants and im- as far as mere blank forms go, for re-

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE annual Convention of the Ontatio Women's Christian Temperance Union, which met in Galt on Thursday when statements regarding these things Union, which met in Galt on Thursday as a nation, the hand of our God has St. Luke, three volumes; is the result of being wise above what and Friday of last week, brought to-manifestly been upon us for good, and Thoughts." Suggestive He is written and must rest on the fallible gether a large number of delegates from it is seemly that at least one day in the Workers "In His Name." By Aunie all parts of the Province. The pro-We are glad Dr. Briggs has given his ceedings were characterised by great houghts to the public. His book will enthusiasm and harmony. The various help the discussion; but we fail to find in reports presented showed progress in it any satisfactory answer to the question the work of the Union; in cultivating have much reason to-day to say with what should be done now towards im- temperance principles; in dissemination the Psalmist: "Let the people praise proving our Church Standards. We ing temperance literature; in police and Thee, O God. Let all the people praise wait to be shown the better way. Light prison work; in contributions of read. Thee." ing matter to lumbermen; in work amongst sailors, and in various other ways. Amongst the resolutions adopted for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Enwas one recommending that each Union dowment. Fund is well under way in appoint a committee to wait on the this city, and that the Agent, Rev. Wil-INTE are glad to observe, from the ministers in their locality, and to offer ham Burns, is meeting with much suc-

That ministers of the Go sel be asked to preach an annual sermon on the subject. That the thanks of the Convention be tendered

The following resolutions were also

That in the opinion of this Convention, the The Committee, it will also be ob-

Resolved, that as Christian women, we have from home, remember that she has a claim

It is officially announced that the (Quarterly), published for "The Presby. tains some excellent articles of practiterian Review Association" by Messts, cal value. The Geological "Talks" ceases with the present (October) issue interest in a branch of science which has great interest for many young Again I quote the second this bare announcement neither to prepare a new Confession in harmony full and accurate returns, does not the Beyond this bare announcement neither reople. [D. LOTHROP COMPANY, Boswith the thought and circumstances of Committee, however, fall into error in the Association nor the publishers give ton, Mass.] the nineteenth century; or a supplement stating, at least by implication, that the any intimation as to the causes which tary statement of Articles of Belief, ... General Assembly's system of classregis- have led to what is regarded on all the Church in England has done. The ders, now in use in so many schools, hands rs a great loss to the world of demands of Dr. Briggs certainly are at present fitted to make us halt and ask, annual summaries. Apparently the new jectures have been made as to the real that on "Woman's World of the other papers on "Ine Neces- in the Neces- in the Sabbath." Of the other papers on "Ine Neces- in the Sabbath." A great impression was made on the public mind by the strange, sometimes wonderful change of character in the Sabbath." Of the other papers on "Ine Neces- in the Sabbath." In the Neces- in the Sabbath." Of the other papers on "Ine Neces- in the Sabbath." In the Neces- in the Sabbath." It is the Neces- in the Sabbath." Of the other papers on "Ine Neces- in the Neces- in the Sabbath." It is the Neces- in the Sabbath. The Neces- in the Whither? For example, he does Committee is unawarcor has overlooked reason for the Review's demise, but pro- Church" deals very finely with a question fast coming into prominence and their frivolities, and were now serious,

> By the terms of agreement between the Assobeen represented by Professor Aiken for one fered seriously in their views on the subject of revision of the Creed, now before the Presby- Ecclesiastica), by Thomas Kempis, revival; and from the commencement contain Church; but the real and immediate now for the first time set forth in rhythm-

licly observed as a Day of Thanksgir- H. M. Gwatkin; "The Kings of Israel ing throughout the Dominion. For manifold reasons it is meet that the day be observed with gladness. Notwith-the Epistles of Peter, John, and Jude; standing many and great shortcomings "The Biblical Illustrator." Gospel of year should be specially devoted to refrom D. T. McAinsh, Presbyterian turning thanks to the Giver of all blessings Book Room, Toronto. Both as a Church and as citizens of a great and growing country, Presbyterians

SIR DONALD SHITH, of Montreal, "Whither," a Theological Questions For The Times.

The Theory of Dr. of Union Sentiarry, New York, 1820. Soid by D. T. Candidates to address themselves energetically to the work of preparation. It wiew of the importance and difficulty of lor, in reviewing the history of McGill, never been left without tokens of the and can fly because a tornado puts its

lauded her benefactors and said that presence of the Lord, and many conhis colleagues, strive to place the timehonoured institution upon even a higher fested in the quickening of saints and in the conversion of sinners. plane than it now occupies.

Literary Notices.

An interesting discovery has been made in India-nothing less than the lost books of Euclid, of which a Sanskrit translation is said to have been found at Jeypore.

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS takes up, in Harter's for November, "The decline of English fiction from the genu ine realism of Jane Austen, through Scott, Bulwer, Dickens, Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte, and even George

LAST July a story published in The Joseph Sawyer. Youth's Companion evoked hundreds of letters from all parts of the United town what has since been usually known States, some taking one view and others among Methodists as "The Revival another, of the argument, but all show- Conference." "No other Conference This story, Mr. Harben has made is like it, nor any other session of the foundation of his novel, "White an annual Conference in Great Britain Marie," which has been secured or the United States. The awakening for publication by Messrs. Cassell & and converting power of God has ap-

The excellence of the stories and the beauty of the illustrations render it in It is reckoned that during the five days every respect one of the best magazines the Conference was in session more Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York, are calculated to arouse an intelligent Lizabethtown Conference, was about

> Christian Thought, for October, contains valuable papers on "The Necesportant topics from the Christian standpoint. [Wilber B. Ketcham, New

Anson D. F. Randolph & Co., of New York, will publish immediately. The Imitation of Christ." (Musica) Complete edition; "Stray Songs of trated edition, "A Handful of Monoby John Taylor. New American edi-This is the day appointed to be publition, "The Arian Controversy," by "Seed Suggestive Helps to Darling. Any of which may be had

Contributed.

REVIVALS. VII.

BY KEY, W. A. N'KAY, S.A., WOODSTOCK, ONT. WE are glad to learn that the canvass | CANADA. - Sources of Information. -PLAYTER, -DR. GREGG. -EARLY REVIVALS AMONG METHODISTS AND

PRESBYTERIANS. - A CAUTION. -THE OLD COMMUNION SEASONS.-RESULTS .- THE KIND OF REVIVAL WE WANT.

interest the Church in the Scheme of in which it was urged not to paironize made only a beginning, but it is a be. Canadian Churches have, however, at the present day? trine on such questions as inspiration, Higher Religious Instruction are meeting Sunday newspapers or any shops in ginning that promises complete success. Various times er joyed gracious visitations, the accounts of which must be error. Many hear of a revival, and which unnecessary Sunday work is done. We bespeak for him in his efforts to mathered in large part, from Church line are associated in their assurance, sanctification, etc., would, he seen from the report given in another Regarding scientific instruction, there place a most descrying Scheme on a records, from the ephemeral prints of minds a series of crowded meetings records, from the ephemeral prints of minds a series of crowded meetings, thinks, help to obviate many of the dif- column that preliminary arrangements was recommended the appointment solid basis, a hearty welcome and a the day, and from the grateful memor- fervid preaching, much emotional singies of the Lord's people. Though such ing, many manifest conversions, many seasons have never been witnessed in anxious inquirers, and much religious Canada as Whitefield and Wesley saw excitement. But let us beware. There

he would, with the generous support of gregations can recall seasons when the Divine power was wonderfully mani-

The great awakening of 1800 in the United States, already described, extended into Canada, along up the shore of Lake Ontario, even to the head of the lake, to Niagara, and thence to Long Point on the northwestern shore of Lake Eric. This gracious work is closely associated with the name of Rev. Joseph Jewell, a Methodist minister, who travelled throughout this newly settled district, preaching in log houses, in barns, and sometimes in groves, and everywhere beholding the power and grace of God. About this same time a powerful work of grace was carried on in the district of Niagara, chiefly through the instrumentality of Rev.

In 1805 was convened at Elizabethrg an intense interest in the tale in Canada," says Playter, the historian, peared frequently at these sessions, but Wide-Awake maintains its reputation at none of which there is any record as a first-class children's magazine, where the Divine power was so greatly manifested, and with such great results. ened; and the total increase of membership from this blessed revival at the

Again I quote the historian already named: "In this great revival the labours of the preachers, local and travelling, were very great; and some wrought for God beyond their strength. made perfect in holiness at death, years ago prepared the present system stated by The N. Y. Independent, which must be fairly considered. On ledge to make them useful. Those but that sanctification continues in the of registers provided ample machinery, has the following: which is the offer gratis of the six indifferent to religion, lovers of pleasure and not lovers of God, were now zealperfectly sanctified saints after death cording and presenting these statistics, ciation of Presbyterian Seminaries conducting lege or other institution "that requests out for the duarrels on the Review, it was to be under the charge of the donation and is willing to pay the excleanliness and sobriety for rags and strong drink. Rude companies and neighbourhoods loved the devout assemblies of the saints, spent their Sabbaths in the house of God, and became orderly, civil and hospitable."

Thus the Methodist Church in Canada, as in England, was born in a

Owing to these differences both editors resign. Cheaper contion.

Owing to these differences both editors resign. Cheaper contion.

Occar, a sequel to "Summer Drifttimes of refreshing. At present we successor to Professor Warfield, but Union wood" and "The Winter Fire," by shall refer only to those in the Presbylargely early Presbyterianism was blessed

with seasons of revival. As early as 1809, Rev. D. W. Eastunconditional submission or destructure are, however, strongly of the opinion of the labour, it would be well for them to continue the labour them to continue t laboured alone in a wild and comparatively uncultivated field. In 1830 two or three other ministers joined him. In 1833 the Niagara Presbytery was formed, and from a narrative prepared by a committee of that Presbytery, and embodied in Dr. Gregg's History, I extract the following: " From that time (1830) to the present God has greatly enlarged our Zion. This He has done, so far as means are concerned, chiefly by protracted meetings. These commenced in the churches under Mr. Eastman's care; and they have been held in many places within our bounds with most blessed results." Of these meetings in the church at Gainsborough, the Presbytery says, "Truly it was a time of the right hand of the Most High. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out in rich effusions, humbling and quickening His people, filling their hearts with comfort, and converting sinners to Christ. Between seventy and eighty, we believe, were born into the Kingdom of God, about fifty of whom at once united with the Church. Special mention is made by the Presbytery of revivals about this time, in the churches at South Pelham, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Chippawa, Drummondville, Brantford, Eramosa and Esquesing. It is interesting to notice that at this early date so much attention was given to the religious instruction of the young, and to the temperance cause. In the Presbytery's narrative it is recorded that Accounts of revivals in other lands there was a temperance society in conhave been written by inspired and un nection with each congregation, and in inspired men, but the narrative of some cases, we are informed, that every Times of Refreshing" in Canada has member of the Church was also a memnot yet, so far as the writer is aware, ber of the temperance society. Is not lengaged the pen of any historian. The a revival of this kind greatly needed at