

tion of all cathedrals, churches and chapels, the extinction of the clerical profession; the abolition of the seventh-day rest, or, at least, the substitution for it of fifty-two public holidays in addition to those we now have, are amongst the most obvious of the changes that must immediately take place. The Bible too would be reduced to the rank of "a historical and literary curiosity." In reference to this the writer observes, "could everything else remain unchanged after the extinction of religion in England, it seems to me that the unravelling of this Syrian thread from the tissue of our minds will altogether alter their texture." But more deplorable moral results would be those wrought in individual characters. Human life would be irredeemably belittled. Repentance and aspiration would disappear under the snow of atheism. Private prayer, confession, thanksgiving, all effort of the finite spirit at communion with the Infinite, must cease. So too all the multiiform and beneficent activities which are the outcome of Christian charity would stop. In reference to a remark of Mathew Arnold to the effect that he must be a poor creature who cannot enjoy a life of business activity conjoined with literary and artistic pursuits &c., Miss Cobbe observes that one need not be either very unfortunate or a very poor creature "to feel that the wrongs and agonies of this world of pain are absolutely intolerable, unless we can be assured that they will be righted hereafter," but that he must be a very poor creature indeed who is "able to satisfy the hunger of the soul after justice, the yearning of the heart for mercy, with such pursuits as money-getting and scientific research and the writing of clever books, and painting of pretty pictures."

The December number of the *Atlantic Monthly* contains an article by Edward Stanwood on "Canada and the British Connection." The subject is treaded avowedly from an American point of view, but the tone of the paper is moderate and friendly to a degree. The writer accepts at once, as "probably true," the broad assertion made a few months ago by Sir Francis Hincks in a Montreal paper, that "at the present time there is not the slightest ground for believing that the subsisting connection with Great Britain is in the least danger of being dissolved." Mr. Stanwood says that on the other hand there would inevitably be a strong opposition to the acquisition of Canada were she to solicit admission to the Union and that the least symptom of unwillingness to be annexed would reduce the number of those who would favour the acquisition to the merest handful. He goes on to point out what he conceives to be the weakness of Canada's position, viz., her inability to inaugurate and pursue a foreign policy of her own. He argues that Canada's connection with the mother country is the great obstacle in the way of advantageous terms of reciprocity with the United States and contends that were she independent the observation of the "most favoured nation" usage would not hinder her from deriving great commercial advantages from intercourse with her next neighbour. Referring to the familiar war argument he says.—"It would be insulting to Canada to suppose that she would reject independence on account of a fear that the changed relation would leave her defenceless against the at-

tacks of a powerful neighbour. but it would be no less injurious to the United States to think that this country covets more territory or has any but the most friendly feeling toward Canada, or cherishes the most remote thought of assailing the Dominion." The whole article, while containing nothing specially new or striking is worth reading if only for the sake of helping us to "see ourselves as others see us."

The School.

The series of Bible readings prepared for use in the public schools will not solve the problem of moral and religious instruction. Any such prescribed exercise is sure in nine cases out of ten to degenerate into a dry and dead formality. Moreover many will object to this dismembering of the books of Scripture, as detrimental to the intelligent study and apprehension of their teachings.

Changes are the order of the day in the Toronto Normal School. Dr. Davies so well and favourably known for nearly twenty years past as Principal, retires, and Mr. Thos. Kirkland, M.A., who has for some time occupied the position of Science Master, is promoted to take the place. Mr. Samuel Clare, who for seventeen years has been writing master, also retires. No third master is to be at present appointed.

The *American* says:—"It is impossible not to believe that some day the good sense of the American people will refuse to tolerate the slightest interference of politics in matters pertaining to the public schools. Upon the whole, the omens are suspicious."

Many of the best friends of education in Canada cherish the same faith and the same hope, though it is to be feared the auspicious omens have not yet come.

Considering its infancy and the many and formidable obstacles encountered, the movement in the direction of University education for women is making satisfactory progress. A Vanguard of seven are attending lectures in University College, Toronto. Twenty-one are now enrolled on the books of McGill, twelve of whom are taking "full course." We have not at hand the numbers in attendance at Queen's and other Universities, but the whole would, no doubt, give a very respectable total, under the circumstances.

Apropos to the crying want of money to place Toronto University on a proper footing, and to build and equip a University College for women, one's thoughts naturally revert to the large sums annually spent in maintaining in Toronto an institution which is now generally admitted to be an illogical survival, is an unnecessary excrescence on our educational system. It will be useless to ask the people of Ontario through their representatives to give more money for University endowment, so long as Upper Canada College continues to represent a large amount of educational capital unprofitably invested. The sooner the Education Department or the Government plucks up courage to propose a radical change the better for all concerned.