

Christian activity and creeds. In the last lecture some of the objections preferred against Congregationalism are met.

Dr. Ross has for years given careful attention to the subject under review as indicated by valuable articles in various publications, a Catechism on the Church of God, the "Ohio Manual" and "The Pocket Manual." In this last and larger volume the author has added no small tribute to the wealth of Christian literature and has placed all logical Congregationalists in his debt.

THE AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT comes regularly to our table, published monthly at Sydney, N.S.W. It is in quarto form, three columns to the page. Forty pages, including the somewhat large advertising space. Six shillings sterling per annum. The first article in the March number is the address from the chair of the New Zealand Congregational Union, by Rev. H. Lewis, of Auckland—"The Responsibilities of Religious Democracy." Our Puritan forefathers were always anxious to show that democracy in church matters by no means led toward democracy in the nation; but we their children "are not careful" in this matter. Speaking of church-polity, Mr. Lewis says, "The only test of the worth of church systems about which the common people care is practical efficiency; and therefore, each church system must show to the world the best it can do, by putting forth wherein its great strength lieth. The strength of the democratic system lies in the sense of personal responsibility realised by its individual members. Where bondage ends responsibility begins. No man is fit to belong to a republic, least of all to a religious republic, who does not recognise his responsibility to serve it."

Among other items of news we learn that Fifty Guineas were offered for an opening Cantata for the International Exhibition to be held at Melbourne. One of our Congregational brethren, the Rev. William Allen, of Carlton, took the prize. His poem, of 83 lines, is divided into six parts, each in a different metre, and ends with "Epilogue: Laus Deo"—

"Lowly and reverent, thy people are kneeling,  
Hear us, all bountiful Father, we pray,  
O'er us the thought of thy goodness is stealing;  
As for our land we invoke thee to-day.

"All through the past has thy goodness un-  
sleeping.  
Guided the path that our fathers have trod;  
May we, their children, be held in thy keeping;  
True to our country, and true to our God!"

LIGHT IN DARKNESS; or Missions and Missionary Heroes, by Rev. Dr. J. E. Godbey. Holloway & Co., St. Louis and San Francisco. This is a noble volume of 768 pages, very handsomely bound

in gold-lettered cloth, and containing some 300 engravings on wood. After a number of introductory chapters, speaking of early missionaries, and the formation of many of the societies now in existence, 13 chapters are given to India, 4 to China, 2 to Japan, 7 to Polynesia, and 9 to the Orient. Then follow chapters on Madagascar, Egypt, South Africa, West and Central Africa, South America, and Greenland. The book is sold only by subscription. The price is not stated. There is probably no work on the subject, in one volume, at once so thorough, so readable, and so entertaining. The "Romance of Missions" is brought out in excellent style. We commend "Light in Darkness" as a beautiful and handy cyclopedia of Protestant Missions.

With the CENTURY MAGAZINE just now, [Century Co. Union Square, New York: \$4] the chief points of interest are Kennan's articles on "Siberia and the Exile System," and "Abraham Lincoln." Of the former we have in the May number, 20 pages, and 18 illustrations, with a map. Of the latter, 22 pages with 4 portraits. Another excellent series of articles is "The Church of England in the Colonies," with 15 illustrations in the May number. With many other articles of great value.

ST. NICHOLAS, for the children, from the same house, is replete with entertaining chapters for the juveniles, finely illustrated, \$3 a year.

THE NONCONFORMIST MUSICAL JOURNAL is in its first year; the number for May having reached us. Published monthly at 44 Fleet Street, London, England, 3s. 6d. per annum. 16 pages, same size as this journal. Considering the aim of the publication, and the price, it should be able to afford a couple pieces of music in each issue, which it does not. Otherwise, it is a capital periodical for musical folks.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD for June is on hand early, and full of good things. We can only repeat the commendation we have already expressed concerning this journal. Eighty large pages monthly, full of everything to interest a lover of Missions. Funk & Wagnalls, 18 Astor Place, New York; \$2. See our clubbing offer, last month.

"WOMAN," an excellent monthly magazine, by the Woman Publishing Co., Temple Court, New York, \$2.75 a year. The May number is very readable and interesting, with over 40 illustrations and portraits.