

He took a deep interest in the educational welfare of the village and was an active member of the local school management. He occupied at one time the position of Moderator of the Synod, and was also Clerk of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa. He was held in the highest esteem by his fellow ministers, and his death will be most deeply regretted by the people among whom he has lived and labored for so many years.

Despatch to the Star dated Huntingdon, 24th Feb.: The obsequies of the Rev. Dr. Watson, of the Second Presbyterian church, took place at one o'clock yesterday afternoon. The services were held in the church, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. Business was practically at a standstill in the village, all attending as a last mark of respect to the deceased. Many came in from the country and all the local clergy were present. The Presbytery of Montreal was represented by Revs. Robert Campbell, D.D., W. R. Cruikshank, B.A., and Jas. Patterson. The funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Neil McNish, D.D., of Cornwall, Ont., from the 103rd Psalm, verse 15. A large concourse followed the remains to the Huntingdon Protestant cemetery. A meeting of the Montreal Presbytery was held in the church immediately after the funeral returned from the cemetery.

THE ENTHUSIASM OF HEALTH.

Sir James Paget is desirous of implanting in our national character "an ambition for renown in health," comparable with that for bravery, beauty, or success in athletic games. Let us consider what this means. The subject is one which may be viewed in two different aspects. In the one case health, like the other qualities above mentioned, is regarded as a comparative rarity. As such it must appeal to the sense of admiration in minds of every type, even the most ordinary, and persons of strong physique would then stand out from the half-dead level of pallid humankind like rocks on a sandy shore. This condition we may be sure is very far from realizing Sir James Paget's ambition. His view takes in the subject from another point. It is that of minds higher than the ordinary in respect of their physiological knowledge. He would raise the most ordinary to the level of these, and would thus awaken in them the slumbering sense of self-preservation in the matter of hygiene. "After virtue, knowledge," said Goethe, thus laying the foundation of his desires in healthy morality, and what virtue was in his ideal of mental satisfaction, health is in the physical system. What would beauty, athletic success, or even bravery—that is, physical courage—be without this foundation? We can hardly credit their existence in such a case. A short and perishing life they might have, that is all. Their best and most enduring forms cannot be thus established. The intelligent ambition which appreciates this fact is certainly a feeling to be fostered by every possible means, and we are pleased to think that its culture is in these days increasingly cared for. Hitherto many sins have been committed against the body by persons who knew no better. Thanks to the extension of science teaching these are becoming plainly visible to the eye of reason. What we still want is the development of a yet keener sense than ordinary knowledge, an anxiety to live aright, an enthusiasm to learn and to obey the true law of our nature, moral and physical. We see more of this than formerly. We do not so tamely submit to the cramping tyranny of fashion. We are less easily gulled by the deceit of "wild oats." Even that capricious child, Society, submits many of its habits to sanitary rule. Yet there is room for improvement. The tide of enthusiasm must rise higher.—Lancet.

The increase in the number of deaths alleged to be due to eating tinned foods has created more than the usual periodical alarm, and in the recent case of poisoning by sardines, the skilled analyst acknowledges that there is no means of detecting the dangerous samples, as the sardines in question were such as he should not have hesitated to eat himself. The cry of poisoning by lead solder will not do, nor will that about terne being used instead of tin plate, though there cannot be any doubt that the cheaper terne plates (coated with a mixture of lead and tin) are used to some extent, thanks to the rage for low-priced articles. There is much reason to fear that ptomaines play an important part in the deaths following the consumption of tinned goods; but ptomaines are destroyed when animal foods are properly tinned. The question is therefore asked, Why should not tinned goods be examined as well as meat, fish, etc., exposed in the markets?—English Mechanic.

Books and Magazines

THE WORLD'S REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLIES OF TO-DAY: A study in Comparative Legislation. By Edmund K. Alden: Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins' Press.

This is the title of the latest issue of the valuable series of studies in historical and political science, issued by Johns Hopkins' University under the judicious editorship of Professor H. B. Adams. The author, Mr. Edmund K. Alden of the Packer College Assembly, Brooklyn, New York, has given us an interesting aperçu or bird's eye view of all the legislative bodies of the present day. The plan does not contemplate the tracing of the genesis and evolution of existing assemblies, nor an analysis and commentary on all modern legislatures. Its object is simply to set in array the principal phenomena of such bodies, and deduce from the data furnished such essential lessons as may assist the student of comparative politics. At the end is given a valuable table of the large representative assemblies, composing those above the rank of provincial departmental, county or cantonal bodies; and giving the membership, terms, and remarks on the qualifications and electorate.

ON CANADA'S FRONTIER: Sketches of history, sport and adventure, and of the Indians, Missionaries, Fur Traders, and Newer Settlers of Western Canada. By Julian Ralph, illustrated. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1892.

It is not every day one reads so enjoyable a book as Mr. Julian Ralph's "On the Canadian Frontier." The dedication to the people of Canada is couched in such terms of kindness and courtesy, that he would be a churl indeed, who would not at once be prepossessed in its gracious author's favour. The fact that the bulk of the book, and the spirited sketches of Mr. Remington which adorn its pages, were as the author says in his preface prepared for and published in Harper's Magazine will tell in its favour. Those who have thoroughly enjoyed the papers as they from time to time appeared in Harper's will gladly welcome them now in collected form; and those who have not, will perhaps enjoy them all the more, minus the suspense of waiting for the next number. The author so well indicates the character of his chapters in the concluding sentence of the preface that we cannot forbear repeating it. "The spirit in which they were written was solely that of one who loves the open air and his fellow-men of every condition and colour, and who has had the good fortune to witness in newer Canada something of the old and almost departed life of the plainsman and woodsmen, and of the newer forces of nation building on our continent." Mr. Ralph neither seeks to trench on the province of the geographer or the historian; as a keen eyed, quick witted observer he travels across our vast northwestern territory and whatever he sees of our people or country that he deems of interest he jots down with a light and graphic touch. Our Indian tribes, their manners and customs; our half-breed trappers and hunters; our pioneers and railway builders, the skirmishers and advance guards of civilization, are pictured in his pages with no untutored hand. The venturesome travellers who first pierced our northern solitudes; the great trading companies whose forts and outposts are the scenes of so many romantic and historic incidents are touched upon, and the sportsman will here be told of the giant trout of the Nepigon, and the monstrous moose of the northern forests. Mr. Remington's vivid pictures are fit accompaniments of Mr. Ralph's stirring narrative and add much to the attractiveness of what would even without them, be a most enjoyable volume.

The Rural Canadian for March presents a rich table of contents for the intelligent farmer and ruralist. Every farmer in Canada should be a reader of this valuable magazine. One Dollar per year. Subscriptions may begin at any time.

Harper's Young People continues to be the favourite journal for the youth of this continent. Its pages are always bright and wholesome. The well-executed illustrations which embellish every issue add much to the value of the publication.

Parents of girls will be especially interested in a practical article on "What it Costs to Dress a Daughter," which Mrs. Mary C. Hungerford will contribute to the forth-coming number of Harper's Bazar, published March 11th. Another pleasing feature of the same number will be a short story, full of vivacity and strength, by Anne Richardson Earle, entitled the "World of Error."

The March Methodist Magazine contains a continuation of "What Egypt can teach us," by the Editor; "Samuel Crowther" by H. L. Platt; "From Malachi to Christ," by Rev. E. H. Dewart, D.D.; "Progress of the Temperance Reform"; a couple of chapters of "The high Cruise of Captain Bess Adams," by Julia McNair Wright; besides numerous articles of an entertaining and instructive character.

The Century Magazine for March is first-class in every respect. Perhaps the papers that will attract most attention from our readers are "Napoleon's Deportation to Elba," by Thomas Usher, R. N.; "Westminster Abbey," by Henry B. Fuller; and "The Present State of Old Testament Criticism," by Edward Louis Curtis. The fiction in this number is of a high order of merit; and the "Topics of the Times" and the "Open Letters" department are rich in food for thought. We can always heartily commend the Century.

The person would be altogether too exacting who could not find much to please in Harper's Magazine for March. The contents are unusually readable, even for Harper's. In "Our Own Riviera," dealing pleasantly with life in Florida, one instinctively thinks of bright sunshine, balmy breezes and a wealth of semi-tropical vegetation. An illustrated article on "The Escorial" describes Spain's most famous palace and monastery. In "Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa" Henry M. Stanley writes in a forceful and interesting way on a variety of African topics. "The Editor's Study," and "Editor's Drawer" contain much suggestive reading. The illustrations are numerous and beautiful.

The forty-second annual meeting of the Western Assurance Company was held on Wednesday, 22nd ult., Mr. A. M. Smith, President, in the chair. The directors were able to report a large increase of business during the year. The report submitted states that "the profit balance on the year's transactions is \$221,456.78. Two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of ten per cent. per annum have been paid, and \$190,000 has been carried to the reserve fund, which now amounts to \$1,090,000." This showing should satisfy the most exacting shareholder. The directors are: A. M. Smith, Geo. A. Cox, Hon. S. C. Wood, Robt. Beatty, G. R. R. Cockburn, M.P., George McMurrich, H. N. Baird, W. R. Brock, and J. J. Kenny. The capital stock of the Company is to be increased to \$2,000,000. The Company is ably and carefully managed.

The Berlin correspondent of the Standard, tells of a new invention which claims absolutely to do away with smoke from the combustion of coal. The coal is ground into powder and injected into the boiler by means of a current of air, when it immediately becomes ignited from a small fire near the mouth. Other currents supply the air necessary for combustion. The dust burns in one continuous intense flame, and not an atom escapes as smoke.

The late Lord Cardigan believed all the world was an army, everything therein being regulated by military precedence. One Sunday, at Deene, after the usual service, he sent for the organist and said to him: "I wish to tell you that in my opinion the singing of the children to-day in church was disgraceful." The organist replied with due humility, that he was sorry to differ from his lordship, but that he could not agree with him. "I repeat, sir," said Lord Cardigan, "that the singing was disgraceful!" "And I," said the organist, "regret to repeat I cannot agree with you." "I tell you, sir," repeated Lord Cardigan, "that the singing was infamous. I have been an Inspector-General of Cavalry for five years, and I suppose I ought to know something about it."

Christian Endeavor.

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

BY REV. W. S. M'TAVISH, B.D., ST. GEORGE.

MARCH 12.—The loss to others, to ourselves. ESTH. 4: 14; HEB. 2: 1-3.

It has been said that a crisis is observable in the life of most men. Such a decisive moment came now in the life of Esther. Her position was a trying one. Her love to her people was strong, but her danger, if she attempted to assist them, was great. Clearly did she realize her responsibility and nobly did she rise to face it with all its dangers. A similar crisis came in the life of Moses when he was commissioned to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. But when he was satisfied that the responsibility rested upon him he was equal to the occasion. That was a critical hour in the life of Luther when he had to stand at the Diet of Worms and defend his position, but grandly did he discharge his responsibility. A crisis came in the life of John Knox when he was summoned to appear before Queen Mary. But he saw an opportunity to rebuke her for her "papistical notions," and he took advantage of it to the full. The decisive hour came in the life of Whitfield when the doors of the Church of England were closed against him. There was nothing else for it but to betake himself to the open field and there proclaim the Gospel that he loved. He recognized his opportunity and made the most of it. "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Or, to use the more homely illustration of Thomas Manton, "The baker watcheth when his oven is hot and then putteth in his bread."

But even if there is no crisis in our lives there certainly arise opportunities for doing good. These come to us every day. Sometimes they are very favourable, sometimes otherwise, but in any case we should be prepared to take full advantage of them. When Paul was defending himself before Felix, Festus and Agrippa, respectively, there did not seem to be a very favourable opportunity for saying much for Jesus, but Paul had learned how to turn his circumstances to account in promoting the interests of his Master's kingdom. If we were only as intent on doing good we would find many an occasion for planting a seed of truth in the hearts of our fellowmen.

But the opportunity may be neglected. If so, it never returns. "Four things come not back—the spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life, the neglected opportunity."

The wheels of opportunity are not reversible. Like the wheels of time, they have ratchets in them and never turn backward.

Others suffer loss through our neglect. What a loss it would have been to the relatives if she had not risen equal to her task on this occasion. What a loss it would have been to the Ethiopian, if Philip had been disobedient to the divine command, and neglected to speak to him. How many are holding themselves aloof from the Endeavor Society because no one has ever invited them to become identified with it? How many souls are perishing because no one offers to them the Bread of Life? Irreparable loss! Loss through the neglect of those who profess to be stewards of God's bounty.

We suffer loss through our own neglect. "The heart's neglected duty brings sorrow to its cost." Esther might have turned her back upon her people, she might have refused to help them, she might have tried to dismiss from her mind all thoughts regarding them. She was reminded, however, by Mordecai what the consequences would be if she failed to do her duty. When King Saul proved faithless to the duties pertaining to his high position, he was set aside and another appointed in his stead. If a man declines to use the one talent he possesses it is taken away from him (Matt. 25: 28.) Every branch in Christ that bears not fruit is taken away. (John 15: 2.) It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful. (1 Cor. 4: 2.) "The means that heaven yields must be improved and not neglected."