

gregations from one end of the Dominion to the other, who will in different dialects support the view that ministers are paid too handsomely.

There are, however, a large number in every congregation who understand both the spirit and letter of scriptural teaching concerning the adequate support of the Gospel ministry. A large proportion of members and many adherents take both a scriptural and sensible view of a minister's requirements. These need not be very extensive, but still they cost actual money. A first necessity is a library, not necessarily a large one, nor one on the shelves of which standard authors in editions *de luxe* must necessarily find a place, but a moderately reasonable supply of the best works in each department of theological science, if he is to be a workman thoroughly furnished, and if he is not so furnished he is but ill fitted for the real work of this critical age.

There may be unlimited differences of opinion as to ministerial qualifications and characteristics, but it is universally conceded that clergymen ought to be charitably disposed, and that their charity should take a practical shape. They do not necessarily fail in this, but it may be said without extravagance that in proportion to their means no class will surpass them in deeds of practical beneficence. In many cases, however, their desires in this direction far outrun their resources.

There is a movement in the Church to incite to greater liberality in the support of a most deserving body of men. Our comparatively few wealthy congregations contribute handsomely to the incomes of their ministers as they do to the various schemes of the Church and other benevolent objects, but a much larger number of Presbyterian ministers have to exercise the greatest caution and much self-denial to make both ends meet, and there are those in the ranks of the ministry who have to press the door in the wolf's face all the time. To every one who gives the subject a few minutes' candid thought, the need of a general movement for a more adequate support of those who have devoted their youth to earnest study and the best years of their manhood to arduous and self-denying labour to the promotion of the best interests of their fellow-men will be apparent. There are well-defined differences of opinion as evidenced by presbyterial discussions, respecting the precise form the scheme shall definitely assume, whether a supplemental or sustentation fund would best meet the requirements of the case. There is no difference of opinion whatever, as to the urgent necessity of immediate action of some sort to devise more liberal things for adequate ministerial support.

The effort was made two or three years ago by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland to raise the minimum stipend of its ministers to nearly \$1,000, together with a manse, or where that was wanting an additional allowance of \$100 for house rent. In the report submitted to this year's Synod, it is stated that the scheme adopted has wrought most admirably. The intention has not in every case been realized, but from the splendid results already obtained it is certain that complete success will soon crown the endeavour. It is worthy of notice that those who have been most active in the promotion of this scheme are just the men who are best fitted to make it a success. It was not left to those who were to be directly benefited by it to be its principal advocates. The ministers of wealthy congregations, who had no personal interest in it, and large-hearted elders where the chief movers in an effort to bring comfort and encouragement to many a straitened home.

Those who have submitted a similar proposal to the Canadian Church have been more moderate in their calculation. They content themselves with asking that the minimum stipend paid to the pastor of a congregation be \$700 a year. Hitherto well-to-do and intelligent elders have been far too diffident in taking the lead in a work for which they are best fitted, and who could do much to bring hopefulness and strength to many a manse, and promote the usefulness and prosperity of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It is sincerely hoped that the approaching Assembly will not adjourn without devising a workable and efficient scheme for the better support of the Gospel ministry.

His Excellency the Governor-General and the Princess attended divine service last Sabbath in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa. The pulpit was occupied by Principal Grant, of Queen's College, Kingston.

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

**IMRIE'S SABBATH SERVICES ( & SACRED SONGS.** (Toronto: J. Imrie.)—This is the latest Canadian effort to supply sacred music at a very cheap rate. The design of the publisher is to provide an ample and varied assortment of hymn music for use in Sabbath schools, special meetings, and the home circle. The first number contains four hymns with words and music, printed in clear type on good, serviceable paper. The venture is deserving of success.

**"DOROTHY DORCHESTER."** By Helen B. Williams, pp. 306 (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.) This is a fascinating story well bound and neatly printed, tracing the life of a girl from childhood through school and seminary to the eve of marriage. Dorothy gave little promise at the beginning, she was wayward and easily discouraged; but as years went by she improved under the discipline of change and trial, and matured into a bright, happy, steadfast character. The style is clear, crisp, flowing; the story is a true picture of life, set with well selected incident, seasoned with sound moral lessons and always natural. The interest never flags. "Dorothy Dorchester" is sure to be a favourite in the home circle and deserves the widest circulation.

**THE FACE OF JESUS** By a Believer in the Internal Evidence of Divine Revelation. (Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.)—The anonymous author of this interesting work professes to be undenominational, and in a certain sense this is true. At the same time the principles advocated and the methods of exposition are those of Swedenborg. The intelligent reader may not accept all conclusions reached by the author, but he will be greatly delighted with the genuine earnestness and spirituality of the book. The quiet perusal of this noteworthy volume cannot fail to impart spiritual strength and blessing. It is a very suggestive work, and will doubtless occasion much interest. The author is perhaps one of the best and most spiritually minded interpreters of Emanuel Swedenborg that has yet written. The book deserves an attentive reading, and the result will be most gratifying.

**THROUGH THE DESERT.** By Mrs. A. K. Dunn, pp. 272. **GATHERED IN.** By the same, pp. 300. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—These two books form the fourth and fifth of a five volume series, entitled, "Letting Down the Bars." They trace the history of the Hosmer family. In the first volume, the father, a godly minister, is still living, but a tendency in the young people is detected, to "Let Down the Bars" that parted the Christian home circle from the world. Next we meet them "Scattered," the father dead and the children entering the battle of life. In the third volume we follow some who have crossed the bars let down, and are "In the Enemy's Country." Then we find them tracing their way "Through the Desert," with faltering steps, and weary with the burdens of sin; yet at last "Gathered In." These are, indeed, delightful books, gracefully written, with true insight into life and character, excellent in moral tone and healthy in religious sentiment. They can not fail to stimulate a wider Christian charity, a firmer faith in God, and a more consistent life. They will enrich any library that may give them a place.

**THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.** Edited by G. Mercer Adam. (Toronto: The Canada Educational Monthly Publishing Co.)—The latest published number of this excellent monthly opens with "A Vindication of the Eighteenth Century," by Fred. Harbison. William Leigh has a dissertation on the "Subjunctive Mood." Two admirable papers, one on "The Importance of Method in Teaching," the other on "Motives in Teaching," follow. Then comes a continuation of Dr. Scadding's interesting and instructive series of papers on "A Boy's Books, Then and Now." Mr. D. Sieveright Smith, M.A., Galt Collegiate Institute, gives some excellent specimens of interlinear metrical translations of Horace. "The Close of the Teacher's Week" is an original poem worthy of notice. The usual amount of technical material, useful to teachers and advanced pupils is to be found in the pages of the current number, together with Contemporary Literature and Editorial Notes. "The Canada Educational Monthly" is worthy of the profession whose interests it represents.

**LIVING ENGLISH POETS.** (Boston: Roberts Bros.;

Toronto: Willing and Williamson.)—It has been said by men eminent in literature that a scientific age is unfavourable to poetry. There is a limited sense in which the saying is true. The severe precision of the scientist is not always either tolerant, or appreciative of the flights of a creative imagination or a subtle fancy. A great mathematician, to whom a friend was extolling "Paradise Lost," asked, concerning the immortal epic, "What does it prove?" So in these days in which the claims of science are so freely conceded, there are those, no doubt, who consider poetry a waste of time. But poets will continue to sing, and the world is all the richer for their songs. While nature continues to reveal its loveliness to the soul, while human life has its joys and its sorrows, its mysteries and aspirations, so long will the gifted poet speak in musical numbers to the multitudes who cannot choose but hear. The work named in this notice is in every respect a thing of beauty. It is a choice collection gathered with great wisdom and taste from the best results of the English poetry of our time. It begins with selections from "Philip Van Artevelde" and ends with extracts from the lyrics of Mary F. Robinson. The order of selection is chronological. Sir Henry Taylor was born in 1800, while the date of Miss Robinson's birth is 1856. All the living poets of the Victorian age are represented in this volume. Here they appear at their best; some of their most finished and exquisite productions are reproduced. The editors of the work claim that they were catholic in their choice, giving preference to no particular school. How far they have succeeded in this will be understood when it is stated that such diverse writers as Algernon Swinburne, and Jean Ingelow, John Henry Newman and Archbishop Trench are among the authors from whose works selections are made. The get up of the book is in its way as excellent as are the contents. The binding is novel and artistic, and the paper and printing are superior. In all respects the book is just such a one as every cultivated reader would be eager to possess.

**RECEIVED.**—"The Divine Origin of the Bible." By Professor B. Warfield, D.D., pp. 48. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—An excellent and clear statement in tract form from the general argument for the authority of the sacred Scriptures. Also, by the same publishers, a "Manual of Forms," by Archibald Alexander Hodge. This is a new and re-written edition of a work which is very useful to ministers, and to young ones especially.—"Canadian Independent" for June.

### RELIGIOUS CONVOCATIONS.

The annual business meetings of the various churches are now being held.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church began its sessions at Saratoga Springs, New York, on the 10th inst. Rev. Herrick Johnson, D.D., the retiring Moderator, preached an able and timely discourse on "The Peril and Strength of a Conquering Church." The Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield, D.D., for many years the stated Clerk of the Assembly, was elected Moderator. The work of the Assembly appears to be progressing harmoniously. The attendance of delegates is full. There was a stirring demonstration on the occasion of the reception of the Commissioners from the Southern General Assembly.

The Southern Presbyterian General Assembly also met on the same day in Louisville, Ky. Rev. Dr. Pryor, of Virginia, was elected Moderator. One of the most interesting incidents of the session was the reception of the Commissioners from the Northern General Assembly, which took place on Saturday last, and was cordial.

The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America met at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, last week. From the report submitted to the Assembly, this important member of the Presbyterian family, it is clear, is both vigorous and progressive. It comprises nine Synods, sixty presbyteries, 836 congregations, with a reported membership of 85,443, and 823 Sabbath schools.

The Reformed Presbyterian Synod (New School) is in session in Philadelphia. Rev. J. F. Morton, of Cedarville, Ohio, was elected moderator. The reports published describe several animated discussions over matters that have been before the Synod.

A largely attended convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the U. S. was held in Milwaukee last week.