

Forward Movement Fund.

At the recent meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia University, Rev. W. R. Hall, who, as all the friends of the college now know, is the agent of the Board for collecting this Fund, placed before us some facts which we think should be given to the denomination. Brother Hall took charge of this work on the 11th of January of this year. Since then he has collected and paid in \$10,304.94, as his published list in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR shows. In order to secure the 2nd instalment of the Rockefeller subscription, which is due about the 1st of January next, \$4,695 must be added to that already in hand. There is now due, or there will be by Dec. 31st, on the subscription list \$6,595. Some of this is due from last year's subscription. A good proportion of it is in small sums. All subscribers have been notified as their subscriptions have matured. In some cases replies have been received, and explanations offered, or promises made. This is so far satisfactory. In other cases no answer has been made to the call. This is to be regretted. Brother Hall has visited in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as far as his time and strength would allow—indeed he has been willing to do too much, but it will be evident to any one that he cannot call personally on every subscriber. Much of his work must be done by correspondence. We would respectfully urge those to whom he writes to answer promptly. In his canvass since January, he has added \$1,436.97 in cash and pledges, to the original subscription list. He feels sure that several thousands must still be added, to make good the shrinkage that will occur through death, and failures in business, and other causes.

In addition to his work as collector for the Board, Brother Hall reports that he has preached 81 sermons, attended a great number of sacred meetings, and baptized 5 persons. This of itself is not a bad record for the year.

As all know the health of Brother Hall is precarious. He is willing to give all the time and strength he has to this service. Will not all who have the interest of the cause of God at heart, aid him in the work he has in hand, by prompt answers to his appeals, and especially by prompt payment, as far as possible, of that which is due, and if any subscriber desires to pay all his instalments at once, such payments will be quite acceptable. It is very important as we will see, to make up by the 1st of January next the full amount needed, in order to draw another instalment of the Rockefeller benefaction. Let him that readeth remit to Rev. W. R. Hall, Halifax, during this month of December, the amount due by him, and new subscriptions will also be welcomed.

On behalf of the Board,
S. B. KEMPTON,
T. TROTTER,
B. H. EATON, } Committee.

From Halifax.

Dr. McLaurin did a good day's work in Halifax. After many, perhaps after a few days, the bread he cast upon the waters in this old city will reappear. His address to young people was well conceived, and was delivered with tact and had in it the ring of sincerity and Christ-like sympathy. He held out the doctrine that character and life are an investment. Christ's kingdom called for just such capital. O how he made the dividends roll up before the imagination as he proceeded in his own inimitable and masterly manner in the discussion of his theme! The B. Y. P. U. members and all the young people present on that Friday evening at the First church, must have carried away with them resolves to put more of their characters and lives into the work of establishing at home and abroad the kingdom for which Christ laid down his life.

Last Sunday morning your correspondent heard a sermon delivered by Rev. A. C. Chute—a sermon that does not drop out of memory as sermons are apt to do. Adam's hiding himself in the bushes and a good man of the Old Testament hiding himself in the Lord was his double barbelled text. It bristled from beginning to end with spear like thoughts. Nor did it lose animation as it drew toward the close. Indeed the peroration struck right and left at evils wide spread and damaging in a high degree. He told us the devil attends public church services. I see I have not put a capital letter to the name of the old serpent, let it pass he does not deserve one. Well that made me think of a telling observation I heard long ago in a prayer meeting from a deacon. He said he expected to meet his brethren and unconverted sinners and the devil at prayer meetings. It never occurred to me before that the adversary attended prayer meetings. I had supposed he confined himself to business meetings of the church. I knew he attended them. Mr. Chute told us some of the things done by the adversary when he attends the house of God. He so insinuates himself into the minds of some hearers—piously insinuates himself—that he makes them more desirous for entertainment than for acceptable worship. Harmony of sound is put above harmony of heart and harmony of life with Christ the Son of God. With this deliriance flashing its electric light all abroad who could keep out of mind the solos, the quartettes, the duets, artistic to the last degree, but not a word of which can be understood

by the congregation. The worship of Bible reading in the twinkling of an eye is transformed into a performance. There it is, the performers and the auditors. Mr. Chute did not say this. It is simply one of my applications of what the adversary does. "Let all the people praise God," says the Holy Book. Modern modes of worship say at times let one do it, let two do it, let four do it, then let the whole choir do it, and then, finally let all the people praise God. But the devil's work as described by the preacher does not end in the substitution of harmony of music for the soul's sweet accord with its Maker. No! He fosters in the minds of some hearers the critical habit. On criticism he feeds and starves the soul. This is the black fowl which descends upon the field and gobbles up the sacred seed. Suitable food, food to nourish the soul, is presented, but the critical spirit that had the chance to eat and flourish would not eat, but grows dark and lean. But this is not enough for the enemy. He whispers into the ear that the truth uttered in a timely way fits well the case of neighbors, but the good of self and personal need are kept out of mind. Farther than this the great opposer goes. He suggests other matters than the truth preached to think about. This causes me to remember what a frank but worldly business man once said in my hearing. It was this, "Church is a capital place in which to make business plans." This inattention hits both the preacher and the hearer. The minister sees it, he feels it, it makes him weak. That is just what the devil aims at. More still this old gospel opponent stirs up the soul to make thoughtless and harmful remarks. When the service is over, on the way home and when the homes are reached, the sermon and the service are overhauled. The good that some may have received is damaged and they are robbed of the spiritual help they otherwise would have received. Through good people satan accomplishes some of his worst work.

Please send this out among your readers. Let each one who glances over the writings of Reporter make an honest and thorough examination of his own inner and outer self. The candle of the Lord should be taken in the right hand when this descent is made into the depths of the soul for a thorough examination as to the devil's work in public worship, otherwise the old deceiver might be present and pour out such a flood of darkness as to hide all the faults for which an honest quest is made. These are the foxes that destroy our tender vines, that eat up our tender grapes. They ought to have their tails tied together and a brand of fire attached to every pair, and then they would leave our pleasant fields.

Does not satan try by the preachers as well as the hearers? Give them a good sermon, think it out thoroughly, give it fine literary form, deliver it well. You have critical hearers. The intellectual demands of the trained mind in your congregation must be met. Be careful or you will lose your place. Do such thoughts as these ever steal into the mind of the preacher? If so, where do they come from? Not certainly from the source from which the following emanate—lost sinners will hear you today, preach the way of life clearly, preach it with affection and the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. Bereaved Christians, Christians weary and discouraged will listen to you. Open your heart, let in the Holy Spirit. Be so imbued with the love of Christ that you will forget yourself in preaching him to both saint and sinner. REPORTER

The Foot-ball Slaughter.

EDITOR OF MESSENGER AND VISITOR,

DEAR SIR.—In your last issue in an article entitled, "The Foot-ball Slaughter," your correspondent made some statements concerning me from which he drew inferences and made odious insinuations. I would simply like to say that the quotation given is wholly without foundation, and that the statement following is absolutely devoid of truth.

New Haven, Nov. 27th.

New Books.

In Africa's Forest and Jungle or Six Years Among the Yorubans. By Rev. R. H. Stone. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Price \$1.00.

The people who speak the Yoruban language inhabit that part of Western Central Africa lying between the Bight of Benin and the Niger river, and between 5° and 7° north latitude. This country and its people have recently come the more prominently into notice because of the question between Great Britain and France as to their respective rights of empire in that part of the world. The materials for Mr. Stone's book were gathered in a four years' residence as a missionary among these people. He was just twenty-one years of age when, with his young wife, he entered the country. The striking incidents of his life there made a lasting impression upon his memory and the reader is assured that the book is a narration of facts, without a single line of fiction. The facts, however, having reference to the country, its topography, climate, products, etc., the people, their characteristics, habits, industries, governments, superstitions, and the incidents of a missionary's life among them, are highly interesting as well as instructive, and the book is one to be read with delight and profit by both old and young. Very appropriate as a Christmas gift.

Archibald Malmison. By Julian Hawthorne. Illustrated by Freeland A. Carter. 12mo, Cloth, 265 pp. Price \$1.25. New York and London: Funk & Wagnall's Company.

In few books are the thrilling interest of a powerful

romance and material for serious scientific consideration more strikingly combined than in Julian Hawthorne's much-talked-of story, "Archibald Malmison." Another new edition, with illustrations by Freeland A. Carter, is just published by Funk and Wagnalls Co., and the author takes the public into his confidence in the interesting "Chapter of Afterthoughts" which he has added to this addition. He describes the facts and conceptions upon which the story is based, and tells of the wide interest in psychic phenomena which has grown up since his story was first conceived. The plot is startling and develops with great rapidity. Mr. Hawthorne declares that in writing it he was controlled by the American idea of "cramming as much as possible into the smallest possible room." Whether as a result of this or not, Mr. Hawthorne says that "Archibald Malmison" has had more readers, already, than any other story he has written, and the present handsome new edition is expected to more than double the number. It has been pronounced by the critics on both sides of the Atlantic to be a marvelously powerful and fascinating tale. Moreover, aside from its dramatic and literary charm, it possesses an unusual scientific interest because of the strange mental conditions of the hero. Numerous eminent experts on brain diseases have recently discussed this feature of the book somewhat exhaustively, and have reached the conclusion that the conditions described in the story are well within the realms of scientific possibility. Indeed several parallel cases in the records of medical experience are cited. The opinions of James G. Kiernan, M. D., William A. Hammond, M. D., Charles Hamilton Hughes, M. D., Eugene S. Talbot, M. D., and F. R. Daniel, M. D., which form a sort of appendix to this edition of "Archibald Malmison," will be read with great interest in connection with the scientific side of the story.

Lectures on Christian Unity. By Herbert Symonds, M. A., Rector of St. Luke's Church, Ashburnham, and President of the Canadian Society of Christian Unity. Toronto: William Briggs.

The book consists of six lectures. The first discusses The Movement Toward Unity; the second, The Goal of the Christian Church; the third, What is Christian Unity; the fourth, The Historic Episcopate; the fifth, The Church of England and The Historic Episcopate, and the sixth, The Relation between Civil and Ecclesiastical Polity. The book is a very attractive one, not only because of the interest attaching to the subject with which it deals, and because mechanically it is a fine product of the printer's art, but also because it is written in excellent English and in an excellent Christian spirit. If all churchmen and all non-churchmen were as truly Catholic in spirit as Mr. Symonds' book indicates its author to be, the middle wall of partition between the Episcopal, the Presbyterian and Congregational forms of Christianity would have become a very thin one. The most important chapters of the book from the author's standpoint are those in which he discusses the Historic Episcopate and the teaching and attitude of the Anglican church in reference to that doctrine. Mr. Symonds makes a distinction between the Historic Episcopate and Apostolic Succession, and contends, that while the Church of England stands for the former, it does not necessarily stand for the latter. Of course the phrase Historic Episcopate is intelligible in a sense distinct from that of Apostolic Succession, but whether the doctrine of the Historic Episcopate as taught in the Prayer Book and enforced in the discipline of the Church of England does not involve the idea of Apostolic Succession is another question, and one which we think the author does not very satisfactorily answer.

Bible Characters: Aithophel to Nehemiah. By Alexander Whyte, D. D. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Price \$1.25.

Dr. Alexander Whyte's discourses on Bible characters, delivered as Sunday evening lectures in his Edinburgh pulpit, have found many appreciative readers through their publication in the British Weekly newspaper, and these readers will be glad to see the discourses given a more permanent setting and placed within the reach of a larger number of readers through their publication in book form. Dr. Whyte deals with this class of subjects in a way of his own. His style is bright, crisp and lucid—nothing dull, nothing artificial. The imagination of the preacher is active—not in an illegitimate way, for the sake of rounding out a story—though perhaps there is an occasional yielding to temptation in that respect—but for the sake of helping the reader to see the characters discussed as they really stood in the setting of their own time and circumstances and thereby the better to gather the lessons which may be learned from a contemplation of their virtues or their shortcomings. The book is a very interesting one to read; it is likewise profitable.

The Expert Cleaner. A Handbook of Practical Information for all who Like Clean Homes, Tidy Apparel, Wholesome Food and Healthful Surroundings. Compiled by Hervey J. Seaman. 12mo, Flexible Cloth. Price 75 cents. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

This little book is literally packed with ready aids for the housewife. Hints, suggestions and receipts which are sure to prove useful in the household are given in great profusion, carefully classified to facilitate ready reference. There are instructions for cleaning every conceivable article in and about the house, and the book is sure to be a valuable aid toward the material conditions of a bright and successful home.

Among booklets recently published by the Fleming H. Revell Company we notice "The Kingship of Self-Control," by William George Gordon, price 30 cents; "Where is He," by Cleveland B. McAfee, 25 cents; "The Bible Definition of Religion," by Rev. George Matheson, D. D., 30 cents. These little volumes are intended as helps to the cultivation of religious life. The latter is a discourse, or a number of short discourses, founded upon Mal. 6:8. Dr. Marcus Dods says of Dr. Matheson's preaching that it is "invariably profitable, full of suggestive and pregnant ideas and enlivened by healthy optimism."