

place, he must go up for examination in spring and pass or be plucked. The probability that the examination will take place is so great that he prepares for it as diligently as if he had a special revelation telling him of the day and hour that he must enter the hall.

An editor is supposed to know everything. In fact he generally does know almost everything. It must, however, be admitted that even an editor cannot foretell all the events of 1908. There is one thing, however, about the future that the editor does know. He knows that on a certain day the "boy" will come in and yell for "copy." Knowing this, it is the editor's duty to make the "copy." There is no use in telling the "boy" that, not knowing the future, you did not know "copy" would be needed. A printer's boy has no respect for that kind of reasoning.

The future of the students of Knox College is unknown in regard to matters matrimonial. There is a strong probability, however, that eight out of every ten of them will be married within two years of the time they are inducted. This probability is so great that it almost amounts to an absolute certainty. The most conservative insurance company in the Dominion—even the old Sun Life of Montreal—might take a risk on this contingency at a very low premium, and be reasonably safe.

In what are called the ordinary affairs of life there are many things in the future that may be considered almost certain. For all practical purposes they are certainties. The bread-winner of the family knows that food, raiment and shelter must be provided for wife and children. The mother knows that the little flock must be cared for. The home must be attended to.

In short, most of us know that there is one thing reasonably certain, and that is that we must all WORK during 1908. Whatever else the New Year may bring, it will be certain to bring its duties. The wise course then is to attend to the KNOWN, and leave the UNKNOWN to us in the hands of Him who knows all. Bravely, hopefully, cheerfully, let us prepare for dealing with the known. Let known duties, known responsibilities be met in the spirit of faith and courage, and if the unknown and unexpected comes, "the Lord will provide."

SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

By the end of the present week the annual meetings of congregations will nearly all have been held and their missionary contributions apportioned. Congregations are requested to send their money to the Treasurer of the Church as soon as possible. The financial year closes February 29th, and only the money received up to date will appear in the report made to the General Assembly. All contributions to the Assembly Fund must be made before February 29th if copies of the Minutes of Assembly for 1907-1908 are to be sent to members of Session.

Special attention is called to the following statement of

RECEIPTS TO 18TH JANUARY.

	1907.	1908.	Amount required for
Home Missions	50,534	64,338	130,000
Augmentation	7,950	8,700	45,000
Foreign Mission	33,737	32,634	122,000
W. and O. Fund	2,496	3,818	15,000
A. and I. Fund	4,227	3,837	18,000
Assembly Fund	1,552	1,568	8,000
French Evangelization	5,759	6,414	24,500
Pointe-aux-Trembles	3,935	4,936	19,500

JOHN SOMERVILLE,

Treasurer.

Presbyterian Church Offices, Toronto,
January 20th, 1908.

LETTER FROM HONAN, CHINA.

The following letter was written to members and adherents of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, and being of much general interest, has been sent us for publication:—

My Dear Friends: Quite a few days and weeks have come and gone since last I have written you. During that time, many things have taken place. I have been out at the seaside for the hot summer months of July and August; but I have been back home now for some time, and have just returned from a two weeks' tour in my fields. Many changes are taking place.

The summer has been an unusually trying one to many in our Mission. There has been more sickness this year than there has been for a long time. In the spring, while I was away in the famine region, Mr. Bruce left for home, being ill for many months with dysentery. A month or two later, Dr. McMurtry was taken ill with the same trouble, and is still very ill. Then, in September, Mrs. Clark, who had been with us here in Honan for only a few months, took ill, and has recently passed away. About the first of October, owing to the serious illness of two of their children, Dr. and Mrs. Leslie had to leave for the homeland. And now, Mr. and Mrs. Mowatt, of our own station here in Hwai K'ing have had to go to Shanghai, hoping that the trip on the Yangtze River would restore the health of their child, who has been ailing for some months. Several others have been troubled with malaria, and are still unwell. God has certainly been leading us as a mission in ways that seem dark and mysterious; but we know it is still the Father's hand, and love is at the basis of it all. He who never makes any mistakes and who never purposelessly chastens His children, is leading and blessing us still. Pray—won't you—that Mr. Clark may be helped, and cheered, and buoyed up in this his hour of sorrow and loneliness, and that the rest of us may be preserved from further serious illness.

The work is growing apace. The spirit of enquiry is everywhere to be met with, and every Christian worker must be up and doing. Moreover, China is beginning to assert her rights amongst the nations of the world, and is most anxious to acquire Western learning. Hence the great necessity that educational work be kept as much as possible to the forefront in all missionary efforts. The evangelical work is, of course, the most important of all. All our work must point in the one direction, leading people to Christ. If we fail in this, we fail in everything.

In about ten days, our first conference with the Chinese brethren is to be held at Wu Hwei Fu. Every part of the field is to be represented, and a helpful time is expected. All the speaking is to be done in Chinese, and the work in all its departments is to be carefully considered. Dr. MacKay is also to be present. He has been touring for the past month, and now he knows our mission pretty well. On his return, he will be able to give you some very vivid descriptions of Chinese carts, inns, food, etc. We rejoice to have him with us; and we hope that, notwithstanding his hardships, he may return to you in due time, "safe and sound;" more efficiently equipped than ever to awaken and intensify the interest of the Home Church in the great work of giving the gospel to those who are lost.

May the Great and Good Shepherd Himself bless you and your devoted pastor as you enter your new church home, with its ever-increasing opportunities for service. Yours for Christ in Honan,

G. M. ROSS.

Hwai K'ing Fu, Nov. 1, 1907.

As usual, the current number of Blackwood's Magazine contains a variety of reading both entertaining and instructive. The serial story, "The Fly on the Wheel," by Katherine Cecil Thurston, continues to grow in interest. Politicians will turn to such articles as The Post Office of India: Its Work and its Romance; Lord Melbourne, and Mr. Balfour's Leadership; while those of a literary turn of mind will find matter to their taste in "Some New Novels," and also in Musings Without Method. The Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

The January Contemporary furnishes its readers with a number of notable papers. Thoughtful articles on "Belgium and the Congo," "Natal and the Zulus," and "The Japanese in Corea," will attract earnest attention. The latter, especially, will arouse the reader's indignation at the cruel treatment of the Coreans by the Japanese. Indeed, there is a growing consensus of opinion that the Japanese are still far from being civilized, much less Christianized, and Mr. P. A. McKenzie's strong arraignment of the Japanese occupation of Corea will remind our readers of Dr. MacKay's strong condemnation of what he saw of their high handed proceedings when recently in the "Hermit Kingdom."

"A Review of the World," in Current Literature for January presents in readable form a number of living topics for the busy man's consideration. "Persons in the Foreground," is a department that is fully illustrated, and deals with several public men prominent in British, French and American political life. In the pages devoted to "Religion and Ethics," are discussed "Harnock on the Present Crisis in Theology and Church Life," "Christmas Without Christ," "What Constitutes a Good Man," "Christianity Under Fire," "When Speculation is Immoral," "The Essence of Prayer," and "The Education of the Superman." The chapter devoted to Science and Discovery contains much that will attract attention and awaken interest. To Canadian subscribers the price is \$3.50.

A glance at the table of contents given in The Fortnightly Review for January reveals the cosmopolitan character of the questions treated in this popular monthly. Here are a few of the articles: Evolution and Character, by Alfred Russell Wallace, LL.D.; A Challenge to Socialism, by Leo Tolstoy; Charles Lever and His Friends, by H. S. Escott; Spanish Ideals of To-day, by Havelock Ellis; Our Trade in Manufacturing Goods, by John Holt Schooling; John Greenleaf Whittier, by Francis Gribble; and the Hudson Bay Dispute, by P. T. McGrath. The last paper is the one that will prove of greatest interest to Canadian readers, as in it the writer deals with the subject from various standpoints, and sees in it the germs of future trouble between ourselves and our neighbors to the South. Mr. McGrath says: "Hudson Bay may become a second gateway for the outlet of Canadian products, and Canada is now recognized as the coming granary of the British Isles, and for that reason England's right to the whole territory must be made clear with the least possible delay. It is noteworthy, in this connection, that in the Alaskan Boundary Arbitration, the question of the rights of the Hudson Bay Company to territory fronting on the Pacific Ocean was one of the issues raised, that company claiming that its domain extended right across the continent. Therefore, the probability of the company's rights on the Atlantic sea-coast being made a bone of contention seems in no wise improbable. The Leonard Scott Publication Company, 79 Warren street, New York.