

brought their likes and dislikes with them and these have grown to rankness in the new soil. The average American politician of former days used to impress newcomers with the importance of building up a homogenous race on this New Continent; that it would be unwise to perpetuate the traditions and the ways of other lands. The wary politician knows that such advice is exceedingly unpalatable to the crowds that come from Ireland. The Irish vote is what the political parties angle for with great dexterity. There is no nationality on this Continent that requires or receives more political attention than the Irish. Political leaders are exceedingly careful to make matters as pleasant for them as they can, and powerful journals are no less solicitous to win their good graces. The result is that Irish political organizations wield a disproportionate power; it is said that they almost control the municipal government of New York.

For a number of years a large stream of German immigration has been flowing into the United States. They are for the most part an industrious and a law-abiding class. Wherever they have settled they have carried with them their proverbial thrift, and have fulfilled with credit the common duties of citizenship. In general they are an intelligent people, and are in many respects a most desirable class of immigrants. Among them, however, are to be found those who have imbibed extreme anarchic and atheistic views. The lurid speeches regularly delivered at Chicago Sunday meetings afford anything but edifying reading. It may be that these are comparatively meaningless and that they do little harm. Still there are certain effects they are sure to produce. Such incendiary utterances, filled with class hatred, cannot fail to have a disastrous effect on the minds of the young people who have the misfortune to listen to these anarchic orators. Many of these speakers, by no means confined to the Teutonic race, have been at war with their condition in their native land where freedom is restricted, and now they claim the consideration due to persecuted political exiles. Such accessions to the United States population have been described as anti-Protestant, anti-Temperance, anti Sabbath, and anti-Bible. The influence they exert is antagonistic to moral and religious advancement.

Another characteristic of the foreign element is the large number of criminals that seek a refuge on this continent. The European criminal, when the officers of the law are after him makes, if he can, for the United States. Those who have expiated their offences by a term of imprisonment seek new fields for their enterprise. No doubt amongst these are not a few who desire to begin life anew, with the resolve to conduct themselves honestly and reputably; but there are too many who only come to swell the rapidly extending criminal classes who have haunts in all the large cities of the New World.

Thoughtful observers are beginning to look seriously at the problem that the large foreign element in the United States presents. It is a question of great moral and religious import. Within the last few days ominous reports are coming from Utah. Feeling between Mormon and Gentile is becoming intensely bitter. On Independence Day in Salt Lake City, the national flag was displayed at half-mast, out of disrespect to the people of the United States who insist on the suppression of polygamy. Some are apprehensive of an outbreak on the part of the Mormons, and then there would be the bitterness of a religious war.

It is obvious that if the work of national assimilation is to progress satisfactorily there must be less political pandering to religious and race prejudices. While the United States and Canada cordially welcome all, irrespective of creed or nation, who desire to find scope for their industry and homes for themselves they are to be welcomed as citizens and simply treated as such. Here in Canada we have not followed out this rule as strictly as we should have done. The Roman Catholic vote in Canada is relatively as important a factor in our politics as is the case with our neighbours across the boundary line. The Churches must also do their duty to those who come to live amongst us. The means of grace ought to be brought within their reach, and there must be a consistent practice of all incumbent religious duties as an effective protest against the irreligion that were it to prevail would sap the foundations of society. Canada is happily a land of Christian light and liberty; but our prayer and effort ought to be that it become practically a Christian nation.

Books and Magazines.

MIND IN NATURE. (Chicago: Cosmic Publishing Co.)—The July number of this new magazine, chiefly devoted to psychology, supplies its readers with a number of brief papers on interesting topics.

CANADA THE FREE. (Toronto: John Imrie.)—This is a spirited national song written by the publisher in the measure of the National Anthem, to the music of which, arranged by John Cheshire, the words are set.

ELECTRA. Edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn (St Louis Courier Journal Building).

This meritorious monthly continues to supply its readers with a pleasing and instructive variety of subjects. It is admirably adapted for family reading.

JACOB JENNINGS THE COLONIST. By Janet Gordon. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—This is a well written story telling how a young Scotch lad made his way successfully in the Cape Colony. The narrative is gracefully told, and the influence of the book is good. It is neatly and tastefully got up.

ASIATIC CHOLERA. By Oscar C. DeWolf, M.D. (Chicago: The American Book Co.)—Dr. DeWolf, Commissioner of Health, Chicago, has written a concise little pamphlet, instructing people concerning the nature of cholera, and what is best to be done to prevent its spread. It cannot fail to be useful.

GRANDMA AND HER CHILDREN. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.) A nice little book for young folks containing the story of Grandma and her Children and a quaint ballad: "A Race of Old," written in a free, flowing rhythmic style.

HESTER GLEN'S HOLIDAYS. By Robinson F. Hardy.

THE PEARL NECKLACE. By the same author. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—The authoress of these stories has acquired a reputation as a successful writer of books for children. These two brief narratives are admirably written and carry along with them a thoroughly healthy moral.

A DIVIDED HOUSE. By Annie S. Swan. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)

SHADOWED LIVES, AND BESS, THE STORY OF A WAIF. By the same author. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—Annie S. Swan has made her mark, and most deservedly. The favour with which the numerous productions of her pen are received is a good evidence that the reading community appreciate genuine merit when they meet with it. The work first named in the notice has obtained a most cordial reception. The narrative is admirably written, the delineations of character are true to nature, and the tone of feeling is pure and healthy. Such a work is a benefaction to the reader. The story of Bess is lovingly and achingly told.

COREA, WITHOUT AND WITHIN. By William Elliot Griffis. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This is a most interesting account of a country that on various accounts has come into prominence of late. The author has an intimate acquaintance with his subject and has the faculty of presenting his facts clearly and concisely. The book gives an excellent account of the history, manners, customs and religious condition of the Koreans. It also contains a thrilling narrative of Hendrick Hamel's shipwreck, captivity and adventures in that country.

THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC. (New York: James A. O'Connor.)—This is a polemical magazine, but the term is used in the best sense. It endeavours to dispel the darkness of Romanism and to hold aloft the torch of Gospel truth. The work is performed in no uncharitable or bitter spirit. There is in the July number a variety of important articles bearing upon leading characteristics of Romanism. Those who desire to understand what Romish baptism is will find in its pages a most instructive paper on the subject. There is also a fine little tribute to the memory of the late Rev. John J. Casey, of Taylor Church, Montreal.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY. Lectures delivered in the David Morrice Hall, Montreal. (Montreal: Wm. Drysdale & Co.) The publisher of this handsome volume is to be congratulated on his enterprise in issuing in permanent form the admirable series of Sunday lectures delivered during the session of 1883-84 in the

David Morrice Hall. The volume contains "Science and Prayer," by Rev. D. H. MacVicar, D.D., LL.D.; "The Creed of the Agnostic," by Rev. J. F. Stephenson, D.D., LL.B.; "Evolution in Morals," by Rev. J. S. Black; "Atheism or Theism; Which?" by Rev. John Jenkins, D.D., LL.D.; "The Descent of Man," by Rev. John Campbell, M.A.; "Moral Influence Theory of Christ's Death," by Rev. William Caven, D.D.; and the "Morality of the Old Testament," by the Rev. G. H. Wells.

NOTES FROM A SCOTT ACT COUNTY.

MR. EDITOR,—We have now been over two months under the Scott Act and we seem to get along much the same as usual; business has not come to a standstill and the old toppers still continue to get their whiskey. A good many people who were opposed to the introduction of the Act have done all in their power to make it appear as ineffective as possible. Some farmers who had barn-raising purchased large quantities of whiskey and got as many as possible to indulge too freely in order to be able to say how many were drunk in a Scott Act county. Of course this was not the fault of the Scott Act. But it would seem to me that the spirit and letter of the Act might be much better observed than they are. That "law-abiding citizen," the hotel-keeper, is falling into all sorts of ways to evade the law. He will keep a barrel of liquor in some accommodating neighbour's house, or sometimes in his own barn, and merely carry in a pailful into the bar-room as it is required, and the Inspector, whose visits are like angels', few and far between, thinks the pail of whiskey is only a little soft water for washing the pop glasses. So far as I can learn, the powers that be have not made a very wise selection in their choice of officers to carry out the provisions of the Act. However, we have a great many men in our population who have become so used to "a drop of the crathur" that they seem to think they cannot live without it, and if we could only stop the young and rising generation from acquiring tipping habits, we would be making one grand step towards Prohibition. But as far as my observation goes, the Scott Act with all its numerous failings is as well if not better observed than the Crooks Act was during the last few years.

During the agitation previous to the voting, we had some great orators amongst us, but as far as I can find out, the lectures given by Mrs. Youmans were the most productive of results at the polls. I know quite a number who were properly influenced by Mrs. Youmans' one lecture in this place.

I sincerely trust that the officers appointed for the enforcement of the Scott Act will see that those who break the law are properly dealt with as the statute directs; at the same time we must remember that it is the grace of God that can alone change the heart of the poor drunkard. "Without Me ye can do nothing." SCRIBBLER.

AN IMPORTANT INCIDENT.

In an obscure corner of an humble chapel there sat, one Sunday morning, a young man burdened with a sense of sin. His heart was longing for rest and peace. The preacher rose in the pulpit. He was a feeble old man, a Methodist, I believe. He was not learned, not eloquent, not famous.

With a trembling voice he announced his text: "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else." He exalted Christ as the sinner's only refuge. As Moses lifted up the serpent so he displayed Christ. The congregation was small. The eyes of the preacher seemed to rest upon the young man. Raising his voice he shouted: "Young man, look, look now?"

It was the birth-moment of the new life. The young man looked and lived. With the look of faith came life. The burden fell from his heart. Joy filled his soul. He left the house justified. The humble preacher knew not, but God did, what glorious work was done that morning. That young man is known throughout the entire world as one of the greatest preachers since Paul's translation. His name—need I say it?—is Charles H. Spurgeon.—Dr. MacArthur.

A SIGNIFICANT token of progress is furnished by the fact that the Church Union proposes to create a "house of laymen," but it is to be merely consultative and not to interfere with the rights of the Synod.