

where quiet and profitable evenings might be agreeably spent, is not one of the least of the precious means of grace a beneficent Heavenly Father has placed within our reach.

THE ONTARIO ALLIANCE.

THERE was a rousing meeting of the Ontario Temperance Alliance in Toronto, last week. Numerous delegates from various points of the Province were present, and most of the organizations were well represented. In addition to the ordinary routine business of the Alliance, the political work that should be done by the organization gave rise, as usual, to animated discussion. This is the one point on which full unanimity is difficult of attainment. Good people may inveigh against the evils of party and professedly seek its abolition, but that to all appearance is an impossible task. Temperance reformers are to be found in the ranks of either party, and have done good service in their respective spheres. Men who have for many years been identified with the trials and triumphs of the political party that most nearly embodies their ideas of public policy do not readily renounce their political affiliations. Obviously such, if they are sound temperance men, can do the best service to the cause they have espoused by pressing its claims on the attention of those with whom they are politically allied. There are others who think that the evils of partizanship can be remedied by the formation of another, whose chief aim would be the accomplishment of prohibition. Though all temperance organizations declare their adherence to prohibition principles, all are not agreed as to the best methods of reaching an end so desirable. The advocates of a third party have been strenuous in their endeavours to commend it, but as yet, many earnest temperance reformers appear to hesitate.

Woman suffrage gave rise to a lively discussion, not that the extension of the franchise to women elicited anything like formal opposition, but the enthusiasm of its advocates was in several instances of the most fervid description. It is needless to add that the motion in favour of woman suffrage was most cordially adopted.

One of the positive results of the Alliance meeting was the decided and unequivocal way in which the principle of prohibition was maintained, and the firm stand to be taken for the maintenance and extension of the Scott Act. On these matters there was no wavering, no inclination whatever to falter. Such constant devotion to the duty of the hour will not be without its effect. The Alliance resolved to appoint an agent, whose duty it shall be to promote organization throughout the Province, and to promote the Temperance cause generally. The meeting of the Dominion Alliance is announced to take place in Ottawa on the 7th prox.

THE MORISSETTE CASE.

A WAY down in the Province of Quebec a remarkable religious trial has for some time been in progress before the courts. A young woman named Morissette, who lived with her parents below Quebec, had been sent by them to Montreal for educational reasons. She was consigned to the care of her uncle's family. While resident there the family left the Roman Catholic Church and joined a Baptist congregation. Miss Morissette at the same time came under the power of the truth, and also desired to join the same Evangelical communion. The pastor of the congregation at first declined to accede to her request on the ground that it was desirable to receive the consent of her parents to the step she proposed. It was afterwards ascertained that that consent was peremptorily withheld. She was then admitted. Now the parental wrath was aroused, and the poor girl, dreading its consequences, among them if she resolved to remain faithful to her religious convictions, she was sure to be immured, it might be for the term of her natural life, within convent walls; terrified at the prospect before her, she appealed for shelter at the Grande Ligne Mission.

On entering the institution Miss Morissette was told that she was free to return to her parents if she so desired. She was quite willing to go home if her religious convictions were respected, but if she was compelled to choose between home and duty, as she understood it, her choice was to remain in the institution. Thither her parents went to visit her, and were courteously received and treated until they began to compass her removal by force. On appeal from her, the heads of the institution resolved to give her the protection she asked.

The next chapter in this eventful history was the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus* at the instance of the girl's parents. The trial was tedious, yet intensely

interesting. Able legal talent was employed on both sides, and a considerable amount of testimony was taken, and eloquent appeals made, chiefly on the inviolable nature of parental rights on the one side and the sacredness and freedom of conscience on the other. The learned judge, no doubt impressed with a sense of the importance of the case, was in no haste to render what has been termed an extraordinary judgment. After a lengthy interval the judge read his carefully-prepared deliverance. The judgment is based on the theory that a minor is, in all things, except where clearly specified by law, under the absolute control of the parent, and the decision was announced that the writ of *habeas corpus* was the only proper procedure in the circumstances. The counsel for the defence urged delay of twenty-four hours to give an opportunity for appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench then in session. Without hesitation this was refused, and the decision was immediately enforced. The poor girl uttered a shriek, and was carried out of court by the high constable and her father, placed in a cab and driven away. The Grande Ligne people have resolved to leave the matter where it is. They have done what they could to vindicate personal freedom and liberty of conscience in matters of religion. It is painful in the extreme to have to take part in family contention, and it is more seemly to retire when every legitimate and honourable effort has been made to secure personal rights and religious liberty from the tyrannous encroachments of the most gigantic despotism now remaining on the earth.

But when, it may be asked, did ever Rome refrain from violating parental rights or disrupting families if thereby her ends might be gained? Is there a land on the face of the earth where she has held the home sacred, or regarded parental desires if they opposed her imperious will? The Mortara case is not yet forgotten, and readers can call up other instances no less outrageous, and which in these days of greater personal freedom and independence Rome dare not attempt to repeat.

Parental authority is right and proper within its own sphere, and in these days of growing laxity nothing should be said or done to weaken its legitimate exercise. It is, nevertheless, to be remembered that it has its limitations. Take the case of the Morissette parents, for instance. It was their duty to train their child religiously and morally up to the full measure of their ability. It would most naturally be their desire to see their daughter grow up the devotee of a church to which they themselves were attached. But here their province rightly ended. They have no warrant from Scripture to coerce the spiritual nature of the child. The moral law lays down that parents are to be honoured and obeyed. The apostle exhorts children to obey their parents in the Lord. Parents have no authority over conscience, neither has any created being, be he priest or pope. If a parent inflict undue bodily chastisement on a child the law would punish him for his cruelty, but according to this legal rendering in Quebec a father is lord of his child's conscience up to the time that the child has reached its majority.

Whatever gentlemen learned in the law may say concerning the propriety or impropriety of the decision in the Morissette case, it is certain that every lover of civil and religious liberty, inside or outside the Church of Rome, in Canada or elsewhere, will be forced to the conclusion that the genius of liberty and the masterful rule of the Church of Rome are irreconcilably opposed.

Books and Magazines.

A NEW poetical work of much merit, "Gentleman Dick o' the Greys, and Other Poems," by H. K. Cockin, is announced.

OUR LITTLE FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—The conductors of this admirable monthly for juvenile readers know well how to adapt their efforts to the wants and tastes of their interesting constituency.

LIFE OF GEORGE CRABBE. By T. E. Kebbel, M.A. (London: Walter Scott; Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.)—This is one of the excellent "Great Writers" series these enterprising publishers are bringing within the reach of all. The story of Crabbe's life is interestingly and discriminatingly told in this volume, which will be prized by all who desire to possess an intelligent acquaintance with English literature.

SAVED BY GRACE; or, the Last Week in the Life of Davis Johnson, jun. By John D. Wells, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—This is an interesting biographical sketch of a young man early called to his reward, but not until he had made deep impression for Christ upon those

who knew him. The narrative should perpetuate this impression and lead other young people to devote their lives to Christ.

THE RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD. An outline of the Great Religious Systems. By David James Burrell, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—This book ought to have interest for all who desire to know why Christianity is the only true religion. It contains a concise account of the religions opposed to Christianity.

THE STORM OF '92. A Grandfather's Tale told in 1932. (Toronto: The Shepherd Publishing, Co.)—The "Battle of Dorking" has incited numerous imitators. Now a Canadian has tried his hand, and produced a story that he makes the grandfather of 1932 tell remarkably well, but it's only a story, and nothing more. The chances are, that when the year specified comes round, there will be stories of thrilling interest, undreamed of now, to tell.

THE BATTLE OF THE SWASH AND THE CAPTURE OF CANADA. By Samuel Barton. (Montreal: J. Theo. Robinson.)—This is another of the "Battle of Dorking" style of literature. It may be alarming or amusing, as suits the gentle reader's fancy. "The Battle of Dorking" may be played once successfully, but repetitions are perilous. The chief merit of this little work is the republication of Dr. W. George Beers' patriotic speech, delivered at Albany.

LIGHT FROM PENIEL on the Christian Warfare. By Rev. William Johnston, Wamphray. (Edinburgh: Andrew Stevenson; Toronto: John Young.)—Jacob's experience at Peniel forms the groundwork of this able and concise little book. The lessons derived from that far off divine event are read in the light of the present day and their adaptation clearly pointed out and enforced with earnestness and evangelical fervour. Mr. Johnston the accomplished author of this little work, visited Canada for the benefit of his health, and preached with great acceptance in many of our congregations.

JESSIE VEITCH. City Missionary and Soldiers' Friend. (Edinburgh: Andrew Stevenson; Toronto: John Young, Upper Canada Tract and Book Depository.)—This is not only a fitting tribute to a woman of great worth, who in a humble sphere was a faithful witness in word and deed to the power of the Gospel, it is also a powerful reminder of how much might be done for the good of others, if only an honest trial were made. The author, Rev. Alexander Millar, for many years the successful and trusted superintendent of the Edinburgh City Mission, adds to Jessie Veitch's story another no less interesting, "Helen Barrie and her City Arabs."

THE ALTAR OF EARTH. By Mrs. T. S. Childs. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—There are many people, even Christian people, whose idea of the Old Testament sacrifices are very vague and inadequate. The object of this excellent little volume is to teach the meaning of these sacrifices and their typical relation to Christ as pictures of His one great sacrifice. This is done in the form of a series of letters from a Bible class teacher to a pupil who is confused on the subject. The various Old Testament sacrifices are taken up and treated, and it is shown how they all pointed to Christ and had their fulfilment in Him. The book is one that will prove very instructive, particularly to young Bible students.

THE PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK for the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland. Edited by Rev. George Simpson. (Toronto: Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.)—All of the Toronto morning dailies have kindly notices of the YEAR BOOK. The following, one of the briefest, is from the Toronto World: This valuable annual, first issued in 1875, is now out for 1889. The frontispiece is a portrait of Rev. W. T. McMullen, of Knox Church, Woodstock, present Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and in a following page is a list of his predecessors in the same office, back to 1875. The book is in beautiful clear print, on the best paper and counts over 100 pages of useful and valuable information. Full lists of officers of the General Assembly are given, also of the officers and committees of the various Presbyterian colleges. Church Statistics, Sabbath School Work, Religious Training of the Young, Temperance, Indian Missions, Manitoba and the North-West, the Strength of the Church, Presbyteries and Presbytery Meetings in the Old Time, and other subjects are treated at judicious length by various writers. There are also full lists of congregations and ministers, and following these is an alphabetical list of ministers besides. On the whole a most complete and well-got-up annual, full of information regarding the Presbyterian Church in Canada and Newfoundland.