

France," Professor Adams cites a passage from Helvetius. It so happens that Buckle in his "History of Civilization," quotes the same passage. On this coincidence, the critic mainly bases his charge. President White in a chivalrous spirit comes to the defence of the inculpated professor, and shows conclusively that the resurrection of a buried charge is a sufficient evidence of a dishonourable intent. President White makes it clear that while the same passage is quoted by Buckle and Adams, the citation is from different editions of Helvetius' works, and that each author had translated the passage for himself. The accusation of plagiarism is a serious one, to be guilty of it is more serious still.

TEACHERS IN CONFERENCE.

THE twenty-fifth annual Convention of the Ontario Teachers' Association was held in Toronto last week. This institution is rising in importance every year. It indicates a keen interest in education when so many belonging to the teaching profession are willing to assemble during the holidays to discuss subjects specially relating to their work. In addition to those immediately engaged in the practical work of teaching in the Public and High Schools of Ontario, several men of eminence are usually invited to be present and to take part in the proceedings of the Convention.

The visitor to these annual educational gatherings cannot fail to observe the spirit of freedom by which most of the teachers are animated, and the readiness with which all seem willing to take part in the discussions on matters of business, or that follow the reading of the various papers. It shows that these prepared essays accomplish their purpose. They are not listened to listlessly; but with the closest attention, and they invariably elicit keen, intelligent and animated discussion. An excellent spirit pervades these impromptu criticisms. There is no evidence that those who speak do so mainly for the sake of speaking. In general, they see clearly the points they wish to make. Without being tedious they state their position and then gracefully subside.

On the afternoon of the first day of meeting, two interesting papers were submitted, one by J. C. Glashan, Inspector of Schools, Ottawa, and the other by Mr. Wm. Houston, Provincial Parliamentary Librarian. Mr. Glashan's paper was: "A Plea for the Study of Science in our Public Schools." It was clear, forcible and eloquent. Much that is valuable was said, and well said, by the essayist; but the kind of teaching he advocated would be effective only in the higher classes of the Public Schools and, perhaps best of all, in the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools. Mr. Houston is a man of strongly-marked individuality. He holds his ideas with much clearness of perception and with great tenacity of purpose. His theme was: "The Study of English," concerning which he holds some well-defined ideas. He would prefer a more natural and a less scholastic method of studying our own language than that now generally pursued. He would dispense with all the rules possible and make the learning of English much more spontaneous than it is at present. He is quite right in saying that the teaching of spoken English has been too much neglected in the schools. It would be an improvement if more attention were bestowed on this too much neglected branch of training. His remarks also on the study of literature were excellent. The pupil might with advantage begin this important and attractive study much earlier than is as yet customary. The remarks on the absurdity of knowing an author by the study of a few elegant extracts were very much to the point. Mr. Houston's views on the study of grammar and philology are, however, not quite so self-evident.

In addition to the discussions in the several sections, the chief feature of the second day's session was the presence of Drs. Nelles and Dewart, who spoke on important educational questions. The former made sensible allusion to the solution reached on the vexed question of religious instruction in the Public Schools. It is sometimes objected that it is only a compromise that has been effected; but practically only a compromise is possible amid the many diversities of opinion now existing. Dr. Nelles did not hesitate to acknowledge the good work done by the present Minister of Education, who has devoted himself with intelligence and untiring energy to the perfecting of our educational system. Both Dr. Nelles and Dr. Dewart advocated with great ability college confederation. On this question they are in advance of several leading divines in their own denomination.

Whenever the opportunity offers they have the courage of their convictions, and they may reasonably cherish the hope that their advocacy will be ultimately crowned with success.

It is significant that the committee appointed by the High School section to consider the position of Upper Canada College, brought in a report stating that:

The High School section of the Ontario Teachers' Association would respectfully submit to the Hon. the Minister of Education that, although at one time Upper Canada College was a necessary adjunct of the Provincial University, it is no longer in the interests of secondary education that a school of this character should be maintained from Provincial funds.

An amendment to defer the passing of the resolution in which the above was embodied received only four votes. Although in the past this historic institution has rendered good service, the feeling is growing that it is now an anomaly in our educational system.

Mr. David Fotheringham, Public School Inspector, North York, read a paper which must have been specially interesting to the teachers. They understand only too well the evils pointed out in his essay. If school trustees, and those who are concerned for the progress of education, would give the subject discussed by Mr. Fotheringham the attention it deserves much might be done to bring about the desired improvement. He showed that within the last thirteen years over 28,000 teachers' certificates had been issued, while the average number of teachers employed was 6,257. Among the causes why so many teachers left the profession were poor remuneration, frequent changes, and lack of professional recognition. The habit of constantly changing teachers was most injurious to children.

Among other valuable papers read before the Association deserving notice might be named the one by Provost Boddy, of Trinity College, on "Education in Relation to Character," in which he emphasized the importance of religious training not only for its intellectual value, but for its use in developing true nobility of character. Dr. Allison read a paper on "The Historical Development of Education." It was an able critical review of the progress of learning, far from being a repetition of dry historical facts. Existing educational problems received a due share of attention. Ontario teachers will resume the valuable work in which they are engaged with renewed devotion and zeal. They will feel the better for their holiday, and the stimulus that the annual meeting of the Association supplies.

Books and Magazines.

OBSCURE CHARACTERS AND MINOR LIGHTS OF SCRIPTURE. By Frederick Hastings, editor of the *Homiletic Magazine*. (London: James Nisbet & Co.; Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—This admirably suggestive volume, containing twenty-eight sketches of minor characters mentioned in Scripture, has already been favourably noticed in these columns.

BRIEF MEMORIES OF THE LATE HUGH MCCALMONT, FIRST EARL CAIRNS. By the author of "English Hearts and English Hands," etc. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—This well-known writer in brief and popular form tells the story of Earl Cairns' life with a keen appreciation of his exalted and sincere Christian character, and the valuable services he rendered to the cause of Christian truth.

HOWARD, THE CHRISTIAN HERO. By Laura C. Holloway. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.)—A good biography is always acceptable. When a life-history is well written it carries its moral with it. This volume—one of the Standard Library Series—does not relate the life-story of John Howard the philanthropist, but of General O. O. Howard, a brave, courageous American soldier and a manly Christian, who was through the great Civil War. The work is decidedly interesting and its perusal will be most beneficial.

THE DAYS OF MAKENZIE; OR THE VINE PLANTED, A.D. 1680-1708. With an Appendix. By the Rev. L. P. Bowen, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—This excellent work, recalling the early days of American history, enables the reader to see at a glance the contrast between the past and the present. The character and work of a distinguished and saintly Presbyterian pioneer are admirably described in this most

attractive volume. It will be eagerly read as it deserves to be, both by old and young.

THE GOSPEL IN PARIS, By Eugene Bersier, D.D. (London: James Nisbet & Co.; Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)

Dr. Bersier is one of the leading evangelical ministers in Paris. He is doing an important work in that great city, where he is a torch-bearer of the light of Gospel truth. The volume now noticed contains twenty-five sermons on a number of attractive Gospel themes. He has a firm grasp of the truth and he possesses the faculty of being able to present it clearly to others. The style in which these discourses is written is vivid and attractive. The perusal of the work will be pleasing, profitable and instructive. The Rev. Frederick Hastings, editor of the *Homiletic Magazine*, writes a brief but very interesting personal sketch of Dr. Bersier as an introduction to the volume.

BY STILL WATERS. A Story for Quiet Hours. By Edward Garrett. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—Some writers of fiction dazzle the eyes of the reading community with a brilliant work, while subsequent efforts, like a comet's tail, become pale and attenuated. Edward Garrett's genius is of a different kind. It shines with a clear and soft effulgence. The latest works from the pen of this charming writer have lost none of the fine feeling and spiritual beauty that characterized the first. This book, "By Still Waters," is a peculiarly happy effort. The delineation of character is subtle and keen, yet thoroughly natural, while the tone pervading the whole is perfectly accordant with a high type of Christian life.

OUTLINES OF PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY. From the lectures of Hermann Lotze. Translated and edited by George T. Ladd. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)—This is the latest issue in the series of the late Professor Lotze's Philosophical Lectures. The translator's aim has been to give a fair and impartial view of the system maintained by the German professor. These discussions are not prolix and diffuse elaborations, but brief and well-defined expositions of Lotze's philosophy in the shape in which it was presented to his students. The little volume on Practical Philosophy is divided into two parts, the first comprehending an investigation of Ethical Principles, Simple Moral Ideas, and the Freedom of the Will. The second division treats of the Individual Person, Marriage and the Family, the Intercourse of Men, and Society and the State.

THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD. Being Papers read at a Conference held at Niagara, July 14-17, 1885. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—The following papers appear in this cheap little volume: "History of the Doctrine of Pre-Millennialism," Rev. John Mutch, Toronto; "The Second Coming of Christ, Personal and Pre-Millennial," Dr. Brookes, St. Louis, Mo.; "The Second Coming of Christ, the Ever Present Hope of the Church," Rev. H. M. Parsons, Toronto; "The Practical Power of this Hope in the Formation of Christian Character," Rev. W. J. Erdman, Jamestown, N. Y.; "The Second Coming of Christ as related to the First Resurrection and the End of this Age," Rev. T. C. Desbarres, Toronto; "The Second Coming of Christ as related to the Establishment of the Coming Kingdom," Pastor Joshua Dencklaan, Toronto; "The Second Coming of Christ as related to Israel," Rev. S. H. Kellogg, D.D., Alleghany, Pa.; "The Power of this Truth to Encourage and Stimulate the Church in and to the Work of Evangelization," Bishop of Huron, Maurice S. Baldwin, D.D.

FOR some time past little has been said in the newspapers about the Nihilists and their doings. The absence of news does not necessarily imply that the restless force which menaces the stability of the Russian Empire has subsided. There is no relaxation of vigilance on the part of the authorities. Precautions almost desperate in their character have been taken to terrorize the disaffected. Liberty in Russia is crushed to the earth. Only the other day a proposal was reported that German commercial houses in Russia should submit their business correspondence to official inspection. The forthcoming meeting of the Russian and Austrian emperors has occasioned the most extraordinary precautions. People are subjected to rigorous espionage, and the line of railway over which the Czar and Kaiser are to travel are to be guarded by continuous lines of soldiery. It is a sad state of affairs when the resources of a nation have to be taxed to such an extent to guard its rulers from premeditated violence.