

## Toronto and McMaster Notes.

The winter season now over, we gratefully hold out our hands to spring, which has already broken a week's bright cheer upon us. March frisked in "like a lamb," save for the breeze over the Provincial elections, which, like their back-date posters, are now quiet with the past. Less "racket" was never known over an election, and though the government was only saved "so as by fire," in the circle we move there is not even the smell of smoke.

## A BIG CITY.

Toronto, it should be known, is no small town to set foot into. It extends eight miles along the lake front, and over three miles from there to the northern suburbs. The new City Hall now under erection, a magnificent pile, has already cost \$2,000,000, yet not finished. Privileges are as big as the city, and even those of the biggest ideas and capabilities have to regret they are so small. Here are a few pieces of the season's programme now closing: The World's W. C. T. U. with its immortal President now in glory; Laurier and the New Canada; Gen. Woolley, Temperance Orator; Nansen and the North Pole; Chaplain Searies and Prisons; D. L. Moody and Awakening; Nordica and Music; Gen. Booth and the Army; The Aberdeens and a Big Ball; Mrs. Dr. Anna Shaw and Purity; Mons. Ploucon and music; *ad infinitum*.

Of course theological students, with a tender conscience and Father Time at their back, with a pile of books before them and a small purse with a hole in, would have to turn his coppers over many times and screw up his courage to a high pitch in order to take all of such a metropolitan bill of fare.

## HIGH TIDE TEMPERANCE.

It would be difficult to find a higher or fuller tide of Prohibition sentiment than that of Toronto. Every Sunday afternoon, the whole winter, the Pavilion, seating over 3000, has been filled with an intelligent audience to hear famous speakers in the interests of Prohibition. This work, carried on by the Pro. League, it is believed will crystallize the already strong sentiment into principles and action. Principal Grant yet fires an occasional volley, but at once has a score to down his arguments. It will be a wonder indeed if the Principal does not, before very long, either decide to take a post graduate course in social economics or cease to preside over a college whose students are likely to be a second multiplied edition of their teacher.

## MCMASTER.

Things at the Hall are moving steadily on in their ponderous course—much energy is expended and a lot of work accomplished. The only recreation some have is that of writing letters. Others take life easier—try a hand at hockey, skating and at long walks. With class work, Class Rallies, Debates, Mission Days, "At Home," and much preaching, one must "hustle" or take back rank. McMaster, while providing a Theo. Course strong and broad enough for all men, is an excellent school for undergraduates, who, while taking their Theo. Course, may elect special studies from the Arts. Fyfe Missionary Day, with its inspiration and spiritual uplifting, gives all students an opportunity of a life time. H. H. Mott visited us recently, and as a result several of the University attended the S. V. Convention at Cleveland, and brought back the Convention in second edition, which all received with consecrated enthusiasm. The chief recent event was the visit of Dr. Strong, of Rochester, under the auspices of the Theo. Society. He gave a pactical address to the students on "Qualifications for the Ministry," and a very strong address on "The Relation of Evolution to the Fall and Redemption." Both addresses created a profound impression.

J. HARRY KING.

Toronto, March 3.

## From North Carolina.

A word from the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States will not, I trust, prove uninteresting as far north as the field of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces of Canada. Although North Carolina forms part of the constituency of the Southern Convention, it has its own State Convention, *imperium in imperio*, and what I have to report to the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR relates particularly to the work of North Carolina Baptists within their own State.

North Carolina Baptists (exclusive of the negroes) are said to be 160,000 strong, with 1,600 churches and about 600 ordained ministers. According to the statistics presented to the State Convention at its last and sixtieth annual session in December, 1897, the reported increase of membership for the year then ending, was 13,640, of which number 8,350 represents the additions by baptism for the year; the number of Sunday schools reported was 914, with a total membership of 66,046, and the financial statistics from the forty-four associations within the State showed a total sum of \$389,561.00 raised during the year for all denominational purposes, including support of the churches themselves. Eleven new churches were organized during the year.

At the last session of the Convention the treasurer

reported \$15,256.07 received for State Missions during the year just closed,—being \$5,294.94 more than was received the previous year, and the largest amount received for the purpose in the history of the Convention. The records show that in the last twenty years the missionaries of the Board of State Missions have, among other things, organized on destitute mission fields over 300 Baptist churches within the State.

In Home Missions the State Convention works under the direction of and in co-operation with the general convention of the Southern States, known as the Southern Baptist Convention, and above referred to. The same is true of Foreign Missions. The Home Mission work includes the labors of 14 missionaries among the negroes of four of the Southern States, and 4 of these missionaries are working in North Carolina. In a recent number of the "Biblical Recorder," the organ of the North Carolina Baptists, it is shown that one-eighth of the whole number of Baptist churches and one-eighth of the total membership in the Southern Baptist Convention is the product, humanly speaking, of the labors of the Home Mission Board of that Convention during the past fifty years. It may afford a sort of "cold comfort" to our brother Cohoon to learn that so far as the share of this State in Home Mission work is concerned, the North Carolina Board is complaining, in its last report, that the number of those who contribute to this work does not equal one-third of the church membership, and that about two-fifths of the amount given is received in the last month of the financial year.

Foreign Missions.—The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention had last year in the six fields—China, Japan, Africa, Italy, Brazil and Mexico, 80 missionaries and 170 native helpers; and these workers baptized 660 persons during the year. The total receipts for the year were \$125,681.99. North Carolina for the last fiscal year of the State Convention contributed \$8,854.26 to this work. It may be worth noting that this Foreign Mission Board conducts its business with such economy that last year only 13 per cent of all the receipts was consumed in the expenses of management. It is an interesting fact that the first missionaries sent to central China by Southern Baptists, just fifty years ago, went from North Carolina.

"The women that publish the tidings are a great host," not the "new women"—the *fin de siècle* She-Men, but simply—"the women." We are justly proud of our Woman's Missionary Aid Society, and the Baptists of this State have their corresponding auxiliary force in the Woman's Central Committee, which collected last year, through its various local societies, over \$6,200.00 for State, Home and Foreign Missions. Since the year 1886, \$37,771.88 has been realized for missions through this agency.

By no means the least interesting and important work undertaken by North Carolina Baptists is the maintenance by their Convention of the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage founded in the year 1884. The project in 1884 met with much opposition in the Convention, but the sympathy of the people, from the first, went out to this institution and their contributions have always flowed in liberal measure for the support of the children. A grand success has justified the undertaking. Since the establishment of the Orphanage, 480 children have been enrolled from 69 counties of the State. There are now in this institution about 170 children. There are on the ground 16 brick buildings, 5 of which are occupied as homes and dormitories. The institution is entirely free of debt. Mr. Archibald Johnson, of Thomasville, one of the Board of Trustees, informs me that the only qualification for admission is that of the orphan's need, and that no questions are asked as to denominational connection. Such a work as this suggests Spurgeon and his beloved Stockwell Orphanage. The institution has its official organ in "Charity and Children," published in Raleigh.

The Baptist periodicals published in Raleigh, in addition to that last mentioned, are "The Biblical Recorder," a weekly journal which has stood for over sixty years the faithful advocate of every object dear to the Convention, the "North Carolina Baptist," an excellent religious paper, and the "Wake Forest Student," published by the students of Wake Forest College. From a perusal of the last issue of the "Student" I should judge it to be considerably above the average of college journalism. I have been most cordially and hospitably treated by the Editorial staff of the "Recorder" and by Messrs. Edwards and Broughton its publishers, whose extensive publishing house in Raleigh forms a centre of Baptist influence in the state. In this connection I should refer to the "Baptist Book Store" in Raleigh which is doing a flourishing business, profitable financially to the Convention to whose revenues it contributes largely, and profitable also, in a wider sense, to the cause of truth whose interests this enterprise so widely promotes.

To tell anything now of the work of education, to which the Convention of this State largely devotes its energies and resources, would trespass too heavily on our editor's columns, but, if he ever grants indulgences, perhaps he will suffer me to the extent of a column in a future issue, to say something on this phase of the work being done by Baptists here.

In reviewing the financial side of what is being accomplished by the Baptists of this State, it should be borne in mind that North Carolina is not a wealthy State, comparatively, nor indeed was it, before the blight of civil war fell so disastrously upon it thirty-five years ago. There are no very rich men in the churches, I am told, and the money collected comes from the rank and file of a denomination numerically large but, financially, indifferently well off.

The fact that Raleigh, the capital with a population of about 16,000, has seven Baptist churches, is fairly indicative of the ratio of Baptists to the population generally in this State.

In conclusion, let me add that in addition to the 160,000 white Baptists represented by the State Convention of North Carolina, there is an estimated membership of 130,000 in the negro churches of the State. These churches have their own separate Convention doing their own independent work, but co-operating to some extent with the whites in the work of evangelizing the spiritually destitute among their own race.

W. F. PARKER.

Pinehurst, N. C., March 9th.

## Book Notices.

Review of Historical Publications relating to Canada. Edited by George M. Wrong, M. A., Professor of History in the University of Toronto, assisted by B. H. Langton, B. A., Librarian of the University of Toronto. Vol. II.—Publications of the year 1897. The University of Toronto: Published by the Librarian, 1898, Toronto: William Briggs. Price, paper cover, \$1.00; cloth, \$1.50.

This volume of 238 large octavo pages, handsomely printed on heavy paper of fine quality, presents a critical survey of the historical publications of Canada, and those relating to Canada, published during 1897. The scope of the work is, however, somewhat wider than its title indicates, since Canadian books belonging to other branches of literature are also given consideration. The various works are arranged, according to their subjects, in five general classes: I. Canada's Relations to the Empire; II. The History of Canada; III. Provincial and Local History; IV. Geography, Economics and Statistics; V. Law, Education and Bibliography, with some twenty-seven pages, at the end of the book, devoted to works of Verse and Fiction. It is hardly necessary to say that the reviews of the more important works considered are careful, scholarly and discriminating. Students of Canadian literature—especially the historical department of it—will find the volume of large interest and value.

"Tell Them," or The Life Story of a Medical Missionary. By George D. Dowkontt, M. D. New York: Office of the Medical Missionary Record, pp. 250. Price, cloth, 60 cents; limp covers, 30 cents.

This little book is written in terse and vigorous English, and the graphic story of the author's life holds the attention of the reader very strongly. Dr. Dowkontt was the son of a Polish lancer, who found his way to London and married an English girl, whose faith and character as a Christian had a strong influence upon her son. After some experience as a newsboy and chemist's assistant, George, in 1859, at the age of seventeen, joined the Royal Navy. His slight knowledge of medicine led to his being made an assistant in the ships hospital—a position in which he continued for some years, and was then appointed to a similar position in the Dockyard at Portsmouth. Later he accepted an appointment to Medical Mission work in Liverpool, and in 1897 came to America, studied medicine in Philadelphia, received the degree of M. D., and has since been engaged in Medical Mission work in New York City. The story of Dr. Dowkontt's conversion and his experiences in connection with the religious and philanthropic work to which he felt led to devote himself is one of deep interest. His life, as he describes it, has been one of trust, which recalls and parallels in many respects that of George Müller. We judge that Dr. Dowkontt's course of procedure has frequently not been of a kind that prudent men would advise, but he has been actuated by a sincerely Christian spirit and an unselfish desire to help those who most needed it. Evidently God has honored his faith and greatly blessed him in his work. His little book, giving the record of his work, will be widely read and with great interest.

The New Testament. American Bible Union Version. Improved Edition. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society.

This edition of the New Testament Scriptures is the result of the work of a committee consisting of Dr. Alvah Hovey, of Newton, Dr. Henry G. Weston, of Crozer, and the late Dr. John A. Broadus, appointed by the Executive Board of the American Baptist Publication Society, for the purpose of meeting a demand for an improved edition of the Bible Union version. The reputation of the Biblical scholars composing the committee is in itself a strong assurance that their work has been judiciously performed. To meet the wishes of many readers the improved edition has been issued in two forms, one of which retains the Bible Union's translation of *baptizo*, immerse, the other has the Anglicized form of the Greek word. In the copy before us the word is translated. The book is of convenient size for carrying in the pocket, has good plain type on good paper, with limp leather back and gilt top.

A History of the Unitarians and the Universalists in the United States. By Joseph Henry Allen, D. D., and Richard Eddy, D. D. New York: The Christian Literature Company.

This is volume X. of the American Church History Series. It is really two books under one cover, since each author has performed his work quite independently of the other. The scope of the histories, it should be remarked, is much wider than the title would indicate. Both go back, if not to the beginning of the world; at least much farther than the beginning of the United States. Dr. Allen goes back to the Waldenses of pre-reformation days, and traces the development of Unitarian doctrine through Servetus, Socinus, the Polish Brethren and the Unitarians of Transylvania. With the VIIIth chapter he comes to the English Pioneers of Unitarianism. Two valuable chapters deal with the fortunes of Unitarian dissent in England and with the XVIIIth chapter he reaches New England. This chapter has to do with the Antecedents of Unitarianism in New England. The following chapter with the Period of Controversy and Expansion, and the final chapter presents the New Unitarianism.

In tracing the history of the Universalists, Dr. Eddy also starts with a pre-reformation chapter, in which a number of great names which are believed to have favored more or less strongly the views for which modern Universalists stand are passed in review. Among these names are Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Methodius, Marcellus, Diodorus, Theodore of Mopsuestia, John Scotus Erigena and others. In a second chapter the author takes a general survey of his subject from Luther to the present time, and the remaining chapters are concerned with Universalism in America. These histories though somewhat brief are perhaps sufficiently full to meet the needs of the general reader. In respect to literary merit the volume compares favorably with those of the series which have preceded it. Neither of these denominations has increased rapidly in America. The number of Universalist church organizations in the United States in 1890, according to the census of that year, was 956, and the whole number of church members 49,190. New York, Massachusetts, Ohio and Maine having about half of the whole. The Unitarians have 421 church organizations, with an aggregate membership of 67,749, a little more than half of whom are in Massachusetts.