

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE LIFE OF "CHINESE" GORDON. By Charles H. Allen, F.R.S.S. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—This is a Canadian republication of Mr. Allan's graphic and popular life of the Christian hero who is at present immured in Khartoum, calmly awaiting the issue of the Soudan imbroglio.

HOME SCIENCE. (New York: Selden R. Hopkins).—This is a new aspirant for public favour. It is a home magazine in the best sense of the word. Its mission is to promote health, physical, moral and spiritual. There is a rich variety in the contents of this, the initial number. Some of the best-known writers in America contribute to its pages.

BIOGEN. By Professor Elliot Coues. (Boston: Estes & Lauriat). This is a valuable contribution to the scientific literature of the time. The thoughtful reader may not assent to all the conclusions arrived at by the learned author, but he cannot fail to admire the clear, cogent reasoning by which he seeks to establish his theory. The little book mechanically is an artistic gem.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—Excellent as this new magazine has been from the start, it goes on steadily improving. The May number is the finest issue that has yet appeared. The leading characteristic of its many eng ravings is realism, not of the bold and unattractive kind of much that goes by that name. The frontispiece, "Hauling in the Lines," possesses a charm which compels the reader to linger over it. The other illustrations are for the most part of great merit. Nor are the literary contents of the May number less interesting. Bernard H. Becker writes on "Lace-making at Nottingham," and E. Roscoe, on "The Industries of the English Lake District." The authoress of "John Halifax, gentleman," continues her "Unsentimental Journey through Cornwall." The poetic contributions to the present number are E. W. Gosse and S. Henry Shorthouse. Thomas Hardy is the author of a finished story "Interlopers at the Knap," and Charlotte M. Yonge's "The Armourer's Prentices," advances in interest and power.

THE SYNOD OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

The Presbyterian Synod of Montreal and Ottawa met in Bank Street Church, Ottawa, on the 13th inst., the moderator in the chair. Rev. Jas. Watson, clerk of the Synod, was unanimously elected moderator for the current year, and Rev. Mr. Crombie, Smith's Falls, was appointed clerk of the Synod. Reports on Protestant education from the Presbyteries of Ottawa, Lanark and Renfrew were read. The committee on the Lottery Bill reported verbally by Rev. R. Campbell, of Montreal, to the effect that they had used their earnest efforts to prevent the passing of the bill by the Legislature of Quebec, and had so far been successful. On the motion of Mr. G. M. Clark, seconded by Mr. Somerville, the report was received the committee re-appointed and instructed to continue their efforts, and in the event of the re-introduction of the bill to oppose the same.

At the afternoon session reports from the Lumbermen Mission and Committee on Protestant Education in Quebec were read and adopted. After some discussion, on motion, a committee was appointed to issue a series of questions for the purpose of obtaining detailed information as to the educational progress in Quebec Province. The Synod Committee on Temperance reported that the outlook was very encouraging. Judging from information supplied by the committees of various Presbyteries the cause of temperance was advancing, and there was an unmistakable evidence that public opinion was being aroused on the subject. The report recommends the establishment of coffee-houses and temperance hotels instead of hospitals and inebriate asylums, prevention being better than cure; it states that the time has come for demanding total prohibition in Canada, and urges that energetic action be taken to secure the adoption and enforcement of the Scott Act. A letter from the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Ontario was read describing this organization and work, and asking recognition and sympathy. After some discussion, the report of the Temperance Committee was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly. At the evening session a lengthy discussion took place on the report of the Committee on the State of Religion.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, St. John, N.B., preached lately an able sermon on "An Open Bible," to the Orangemen of that city.

THE Listowel Banner states that the Presbyterian congregation there is rapidly increasing under the ministry of the Rev. I. Campbell.

THE other Sabbath the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Brantford, preached impressive *in memoriam* sermons. In the morning the discourse bore reference to the death of Dr. A. F. Kemp and in the evening to the loss of Captain Sadler who went down on the *State of Florida*.

In addition to the sums acknowledged last week, the following contributions for Mrs. Thirde have been received: Per Dr. Matthews, \$22; per W. K. McCulloch, Kinnear's Mills, \$6 50; Rev. Hugh Cameron, \$2, making now a total of \$252 50. Dr. Cochrane intimates that nothing more will be required.

FROM the published report recently received of the First Presbyterian Church, Brantford, it appears that the congregation under the care of the Rev. F. R. Beattie, is making substantial and satisfactory progress. The various departments of Christian activity are well organized and are able to report an advance all along the line.

In St. Paul's Church, Bowmanville, on the 4th inst., the Rev. James Little preached an anniversary sermon in which the encouraging progress made by the congregation in the various parts of Church life and work were reviewed. From the facts adduced it is obvious that under Mr. Little's spiritual oversight an important Christian work has been quietly and steadily accomplished.

THE Rev. Dr. MacVicar sails for Europe immediately after the General Assembly. He is chairman of the committee on the "Admission of Churches" into connection with the Presbyterian Council, Belfast. He is also to read a paper before the Evangelical Alliance, in Copenhagen, on "Modern Unbelief, and the Best Methods of Counteracting it," and will be present at the conference of the Y. M. C. A. in Berlin. He lectures in Peterboro', Ont., on the 30th inst., on "Science and Prayer," and preaches there on the Sabbath following. During his absence, correspondence on college business, by students and others, should be addressed to the Rev. W. G. Dey, Presbyterian College, Montreal.

THE Rev. John Anderson, late of Paris, was inducted into the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's Church, East Williams, on the 29th of April by the Presbytery of Sarnia. The church was filled on the occasion by a large congregation, who were evidently deeply interested in the proceedings. The Rev. John Thompson, of Sarnia, preached an appropriate sermon from 1 Cor. i, 18. The Rev. John Rennie, of Ailsa Craig (London Presbytery), offered the induction prayer. The Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson, of Wyoming, gave the charge to the minister, and the Rev. T. Macadam, of Strathroy, addressed the congregation. At the close of the services Mr. Anderson received a cordial welcome from the congregation, who shook hands with him at the door of the church as they retired. The stipend promised by this congregation is \$900 per annum, together with the free use of manse and glebe of five acres. Mr. Anderson is highly spoken of as a popular and successful minister, and enters on his labours with encouraging prospects.

BEFORE the commencement of the annual meeting in St. James' Presbyterian Church, London, last week, a very enjoyable social was held under the management of the Ladies' Aid Society. The attendance was large and above \$40 was netted as the result. Addresses were afterwards delivered by Dr. Campbell and Mr. Ferguson, superintendent of the Sunday school. Dr. Campbell congratulated the congregation on the progress they had made since Rev. Mr. McGillivray assumed charge. At that time the congregation could with difficulty raise but \$200, while the reports now showed that last year they had raised the magnificent sum of \$2,322. Mr. Ferguson spoke much in the same manner, and stated he was not sorry that he had linked his fortunes with St. James' Church. The annual meeting was exceedingly well attended. The report of the session showed an increase during the year of twenty-five families, and an addition of sixty communicants. The Sabbath school report by Mr. Ferguson, the superintendent,

showed an attendance of 134. The contributions during the year average about \$30 per Sabbath, or \$1,560 for the year. The Ladies' Aid raised \$542; the missionary collection, \$120; the Sabbath school, \$100, making the total sum of \$2,322 for the year. This showing was considered very creditable to both Mr. McGillivray and the congregation. The choir, also under the management of Miss Saunby, has attained a high rank. The following compose the Board of Management for the ensuing year: Messrs. Mitchell, Webster, Omond, Munro, Rowat, Jones, Ferguson, and Irwin. A vote of thanks was given the ladies for their efforts during the past year. A vote was also tendered the choir.

A SHORT time since the *Woodstock Sentinel Review* says that the Rev. Mr. McKay, Woodstock, sketching the life and work of the late Rev. D. McKenzie, gave a graphic description of religion as it was in Zorra a quarter of a century ago. "Who," said the speaker, "can ever forget the old communion season? It was a time of peculiar solemnity and hallowed enjoyment. Hundreds of the Lord's people were there from other Gaelic congregations; and all seemed to enjoy as much of the comforting presence of the Lord as they could bear. The word preached by such earnest God fearing men as Allan, McPherson, Adam, McKay, Grant, Fraser, and Ross, was accompanied with great spiritual power. There was also on these occasions, 'the abundance of prayer'—little gatherings each evening in every part of the congregation. These were conducted by the men, and were greatly enjoyed by both old and young. It was no uncommon thing, as indeed Mr. McKenzie himself testified, to see on a communion Sabbath, as one went to the church, numbers of persons, here and there, returning from the woods where they had spent the whole morning in prayer. At this time the Lord's Supper was observed only once a year, and many relatives and friends from a distance met only on these occasions. How sweet the tie that bound those hearts in Christian love! The communion lasted from Thursday till Monday, five days, and every day of the five was a Gospel feast, and particularly the last was a great day. To those Christian friends the Monday parting was a great trial. When I have heard them say, 'will the communion come at which there will be no Monday' (i. e., no parting). Memory fondly reverts to those seasons of refreshing in our boyhood days. Oh, for more of the spirit of prayer and brotherly love which characterized the fathers."

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.—This Presbytery held its regular quarterly meeting on the 13th May, in Knox Church, Ingersoll. The call from Barrie, to the Rev. D. D. McLeod, was taken up, parties were heard, and the translation was granted. The Presbytery expressed deep regret in parting with Mr. McLeod, and sympathy with Dumfries Street congregation in losing a pastor to whom they are so strongly attached. Mr. Hume's resignation of the pastoral charge of St. George was considered, representatives of the session and congregation being heard, and as Mr. Hume pressed his resignation, it was finally accepted. Mr. James A. Hamilton was licensed to preach the Gospel, and Mr. P. J. Pettinger was certified for admission to Knox College. It was agreed to grant the petition of the minority in Ingersoll, and organize them as a congregation in Knox Church. The majority have adopted the name of St. Andrew's Church, and worship in the building formerly known as Erskine Church. Messrs. Robertson and McGregor, ministers, and Messrs. Barr and Fleming, elders, were appointed to settle the question of accounts and other details between the two congregations in Ingersoll. Dr. Cochrane was appointed moderator of Dumfries Street Church, Paris, Rev. G. Munro, minister of Embro, was appointed moderator of Knox Church, Ingersoll, and Rev. R. Pettigrew, minister of Glenmorr, moderator of St. George. Correspondence regarding the pulpit supply of these churches is to be addressed to the respective moderators.—W. T. McMULLEN, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.—This Presbytery met in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, the Rev. Thomas Bennett, of Carp, Moderator. There was a good representation both of ministers and elders. Several reports were submitted, received and adopted, among which was that of the committee on the studies of P. S. Vernier. It was agreed to report his case to the General Assembly and ask leave to take him on trial