

THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY

The present number begins the eighth volume of this useful publication. Throughout its course nothing has been admitted into its pages but what was thoroughly in keeping with its character as a religious magazine; while, at the same time, the shortness, the pithiness, the variety, and the admirable classification of the articles, all combine to render it not only readable, but very interesting. Even those who are young, and perhaps not in the habit of thinking very deeply or seriously, always find something suited to their taste in the departments entitled "Christian Miscellany" and "Children's Treasury," the latter of which generally has one or two illustrations; while the mature and intelligent Christian finds food which his soul loveth among the more solid departments, such as "Editorials," "Christian Thought," and "Christian Life." This magazine has always preserved its unsectarian character; indeed it would be very difficult to find a periodical which has been so successful in advocating, elucidating, and minutely explaining gospel truth, without manifesting some denominational bias. The January number is a fair average specimen. The editorial department is well occupied by a most thoughtful and weighty article entitled "The Four Corner Stones of a Prosperous and Permanent Commonwealth." These four corner stones, we are told, are (1) "Honour all men;" (2) "Love the brotherhood;" (3) "Fear God;" (4) "Honour the King." Under these heads are beautifully and clearly set forth the essentials of national greatness. Under the head of "Living Preachers" we have a sermon on "Our Lord's Preaching," by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. The department of "Christian Thought" is taken up with one of Joseph Cook's famous lectures: its subject is "Is Conscience Infallible?" The character chosen to illustrate "Christian Life" is that of the late Bishop Ewing of Argyle. The "Christian Miscellany," the "Children's Treasury," and the department allotted to Poetry are well filled; and the number closes with some valuable Book Reviews. The present is a good time to begin taking this excellent magazine; and those who wish to do so have only to remit one dollar to C. Blackett Robinson, Publisher, 5 Jordan St., Toronto. This small amount will secure the "Canada Christian Monthly" for one year.

LECTURES BY REV. JOS. COOK.

Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson. Trade supplied by Toronto News Company. Price 20 cents.

The publication of these remarkable lectures, carefully edited, in a neat and convenient form, and at a price which brings them within the reach of every one, is a service to the public which will certainly be appreciated. The pamphlet contains five of the lectures with a chapter of "Gems" taken from the rich "preludes" which Mr. Cook has been in the habit of giving before the lecture proper. The titles of the lectures are: (1) "Unexplored Remains in Conscience;" (2) "Solar Self-Culture;" (3) "The Physical Tangibility of the Moral Law;" (4) "Matthew Arnold's Views of Conscience;" (5) "Organic Instincts of Conscience." Mr. Cook is learned and eloquent, wise and witty. His logic is inexorable; many of his statements may appear bold when first heard or read, but long before the lecturer reaches the triumphant Q.E.D. at the end of the demonstration, the conclusion is seen to be inevitable, and the statement is placed among the truths not to be called in question. It is not to be supposed that these famous productions of the brilliant American scholar contain nothing but dry argument. There is a certain possible combination of argument and illustration which has a wonderful charm about it and which Mr. Cook uses very frequently with marked effect. Take, for example the following paragraph from the lecture on "Matthew Arnold's Views of Conscience."

"John Stuart Mill advised all who would prove the Divine existence to adhere to the argument from design. Even Matthew Arnold says that all he can say against the argument from design is that he has had no experience in world building. 'We know from experience that men make watches and bees make honeycombs. We do not know from experience that a Creator of all things makes ears and buds.'—('God and the Bible,' pp. 102, 103.) What if Red Cloud and Chief Joseph had been brought to the

Centennial or to Washington? What if they had seen the majestic dome of our National Capitol and all the marvels of the Centennial? Red Cloud would have said, if he had followed Matthew Arnold's philosophy: "I have had experience in building wigwams. I know the path from my home to the hut of Seven Thunders or Bear Paw. I know that every such path is made by some cause. I know that every wigwam must have been built by some man. But this railroad—I never had experience in building railroads—I do not know but that it was fished out of the sea. This Marble Capitol, these wonderful and strange things in the Centennial! I have never had experience in making columbiads or spinning-jennies. I know that the flint I sharpen for my arrow must be shaped by some man; but this columbiad, I do not know but that it grew. This spinning-jenny! I have had no experience in factories and weaving-machines, and these marvels. I think this loom was *evolved*."

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.—WESTERN DISTRICT.

The Home Mission Committee for the Western District will meet in Toronto, and within Knox Church Deacon's Court Room, on Tuesday, the 26th March, at 2 p.m. A prompt attendance of members is earnestly requested, as a large amount of important business will come before the Committee. Claims for the current half year should be sent, as far as possible, to the Convener a week before the day of meeting, and all applicants for appointments as missionaries to Manitoba or other fields, should appear in person before the Committee. It will greatly aid the Committee in considering new applications, if congregations will forward their annual contributions for Home Missions before that date, to the Rev. Dr. Reid, Toronto.

WM. COCHRANE, Convener.

Branford, Feb., 1878.

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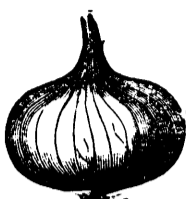
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