

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine.

Rochester, N.Y.: James Vick.

A writer in the June number of *Vick's Monthly* says:

"It is pleasant to notice the growing taste and wisdom of farmers in the matter of home comforts and home adornments. Well I remember, only a few years ago, but very few farmers in my neighborhood paid any attention to the garden. . . . Some grudgingly gave a few rods of land to the cultivation of 'garden sass,' and the women were allowed a square yard or two in one corner for a flower bed. But our farmers are now learning to appreciate the bountiful gifts of the Creator. . . . And it is to be hoped, and I think reasonably so, that the time is not far distant when at least one or two acres of land around the dwelling will be devoted to growing choice vegetables, fruits and flowers, with shady arbours and well-kept lawns—everything artistically arranged, and the whole tending to make home more beautiful and attractive, inspiring a love of horticultural pursuits in the young members of the family, which will prevent that long ing desire, too frequently seen in farmers' sons and daughters, to get away from the monotony of farm life and seek occupation in the cities."

Belford's Monthly Magazine.

Toronto: Rose-Belford Publishing Co.

The May number of *Belford's Monthly* is before us with the following table of contents. "The Oklawaha in May," by Sidney Lanier; "The Grandmother," by George Murray; "George Eliot," by J. L. Stewart; "Wanderings with Virgil," by Edward C. Bruce; "God's Tenement Houses," by Elihu Burritt; "Bertha Klein," by W. J. Florence; "Dies Irae," by S. J. Watson; "Lady Arthur Eildon's Dying Letter," by E. L. Murdoch; "A Wild Night in Parliament," by *A Gallery Man*; "Man Here and Hereafter," by W. J. Rattray; "Roxy," by Edward Egglestone. The number contains several beautiful illustrations representing American and Italian scenery. The article on "Man Here and Hereafter" is an able defense of the truths of natural religion against the speculations of Mill, Spencer, Tyndall, Comte, Harrison, Huxley "and the rest of the thinkers." The translator of the "Dies Irae" has been wonderfully successful in his attempt to produce a close translation in the same measure as the original—a very difficult task, frequently undertaken, but heretofore, so far as we know, without success. This magazine is now to be amalgamated with the "Canadian Monthly," carrying with it some of its most attractive features, such as Illustrated Papers and Reviews of late Books.

The Canadian Monthly.

Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.

The June number of the "Canadian Monthly" contains the second part of the essay on "Communism," by Mr. T. B. Browning, of Dundas. It is a philosophical examination and a lucid exposition of the principles of this newest and worst of "isms," which, if we mistake not, is destined to be the source of the next serious "unpleasantness" on this continent. The writer of the article on "Prohibition" defends the liquor traffic with a vigour worthy of a better cause. The writer of "Current Events" condemns party government as usual—condemns the Temperance Act—condemns the late Quebec Ministry—condemns everything, except Mr. Blake's Bill to prevent Crimes of Violence, which bill he thinks was necessary. The article "What can we know of the Future Life?" is tolerably well written, and does not advance any very strange or startling views; in fact it seems to be a statement of the views generally held, except that, at the very end a hint is given of a dim and distant restoration or annihilation, just to avoid the thought that "makes evil co-eternal with the Deity." "The New Reformation" is an Infidel manifesto put forth by a small body belonging to that persuasion and calling itself the Progressive Society of Ottawa. The author of it knows not whereof he affirms, for his representation of the Christian religion is a gross caricature. We do not wonder at him and his associates renouncing the thing that they call Christianity. But what have they got instead? "Behind us all is dark, before us all is gloom." This may be the portion even of the Christian for a season, but it is exceedingly sad to think that, with an open Bible in the world, any human being should be under the necessity of writing such a sentence down as part of his creed. By the way, has not the space occupied by infidel writers in the columns of the "Canadian Monthly" been, of late, quite out of proportion to their number and to the number of professed infidels among the readers of that magazine? As it is now on the point of being re-organized, we hope there will be an improvement in this respect.

CURRENT OPINIONS.

THINK nothing about filling the pews. Think everything about filling the hearts in the pews.—*Rev. Dr. Herrick Johnson.*

IN the observations of half a century, we do not collect a single specimen of an earnest, consistent, and fruitful Christian unconnected with a church.—*Religious Herald, Richmond.*

THE "Standard" says: "A man cannot be a Baptist and a Methodist at the same time." Very true, but both Baptists and Methodists can be gentlemen and Christians.—*Herald & Presbyterian.*

THE doctrine that this is "the white man's country," in the sense of exclusion applied to other races, is properly described by calling it a moral and political abomination.—*N. Y. Independent.*

THE cure of Communism and all its allies is the righteousness, the sympathy, the love, the unselfishness of the Christian nature declared in the Bible, and illustrated in the life of the Son of Man.—*N. Y. Christian Intelligencer.*

NEITHER the church nor the ministry is entirely free from responsibility for the state of things which makes possible the frequent and startling revelations of moral and spiritual decay in professing Christian men.—*Congregationalist.*

WHEN industry with average skill can secure healthful food and clothing, without luxuries or intoxicants, and the honest man can live in security and peace, cherishing his family and serving his God, then he must call the times good.—*N. Y. Christian Advocate.*

IT is to be hoped that all Christian people may now preach a genuine missionary gospel of bread to the hungry heathen. Bread, bread is the highest form of orthodoxy now for China. And the true church will follow the bread which is now sent in preparation of the way of the Lord.—*Methodist Recorder.*

THE best way to stifle Communism in America is to increase the number of our churches and free schools. Your average Communist is either an ignoramus or a ruffian, sometimes he is both. Make an intelligent Christian of him, and you make him a thoughtful, law-abiding citizen.—*Christian Leader.*

AN eminent teacher said, "I am trying to make myself useless," that is, of course, I am trying to carry forward my pupils to a point where they can do without my help—can be teachers unto themselves. So the physician, so the parent, so the good ruler. And eminently so the faithful and wise minister.—*National Baptist.*

THE Bible has been tried in the ages of the past by godless men like Voltaire; it has been tried by the best classes like Wilberforce; it has been tried by educators like Alexander, it has been tried by men in every conceivable position, in prosperity and in adversity, and it has stood the test. You need not be afraid to build your hopes upon it for time and for eternity.—*Dr. John Hall.*

IF the powers of a political prince are essentially necessary to the due liberty and influence of the Church, how did Peter and Paul and John lay the foundations of the Church in "troubulous times" without it? And if the Church of Rome is so much the object of divine favor as the Pope claims, why has the Saviour allowed her to lose what is so essential to her success? If the Church of Rome alone has a remedy for the prevailing evils of society, why is it that where Rome reigns these evils most abound?—*Christian Guardian.*

"SUPPOSE a close compact between Germany, Austria, and Russia and the problem is solved. Then you have a free Danube, then you have a series of States like Roumania and Servia under the joint protection of the three powers; then you have Constantinople a free city, the Bosphorus and the Hellespont a national waterway through which the ships of all nationalities may pass unchallenged; then you see the Ottoman crescent which surmounts the dome of St. Sophia, give place to the Christian cross. Then will come the new era in the history of the world. One bold, busy, far-sighted brain in Europe holds the solution of this problem in itself. This is the brain of Bismarck. When this solution is completed we shall see Constantinople the great free city of the world, and its Golden Horn be filled with liberty, opulence and peace."—*Dr. Storrs.*

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

HALF pound of butter, half pound sugar, three eggs, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one nutmeg, rosewater; thicken with flour. Bake, and jumbles will result.

HARD SAUCE.—Beat one cupful of sugar and half cupful of butter to a light cream; add the whites of two eggs well beaten, and a tablespoonful of orange, lemon, currant or any other juice, with such seasoning as is agreeable. Beat all together a few minutes. Set on the ice to harden till needed. Huckleberry, strawberry or peach dumplings made like apple.

CHEESE SOUP.—To one pint and a half rich milk add one cup grated or finely cut cheese, a little salt, pepper and butter. Set it over the fire and bring to a scald; then add two well beaten eggs. Let it remain but an instant over the fire after the eggs are added or it will curdle. Serve hot for a tea relish. The flavor is like that of an oyster stew. It is very good without eggs. This is an economical way to use dry bits of cheese.

POISONOUS WALL PAPER.—A late number of the "Scientific American" has another article under the above head. The only new fact developed is the large percentage of such papers that are poisonous. Mr. Siebold, a member of the Manchester Chemists' and Druggists' Association, examined sixty or seventy samples of wall paper of different colors and found only ten that were harmless.

TO CURE A COLD.—By abstaining from drink and liquid food of any kind, for as long a period as possible, the internal congestion, which is, in fact, the condition generally known as a cold, becomes reduced. The cause of congestion is the excess of blood contained in the overcharged membranes, and this is removed when the general bulk of the blood has been diminished by withholding the usual supply of fluid.

SOMETHING BETTER THAN SHORTCAKE.—Make nice, light, white gems by mixing flour and milk nearly as soft as for griddle cakes, and bake quickly in hot gem pans. Break, not cut, them open and lay in a deep platter and pour over strawberries, raspberries, blackberries (or even nice stewed apples) mixed with sugar and a little rich cream if you have it. Ten times better than any pastry or shortcake, and you get rid of soda or baking-powder and shortening.

APPLE DUMPLINGS.—Put into two cups of flour one half a teaspoonful Royal Baking Powder and sift them together. Chop very fine half a pound of best suet freed from the skin, sprinkle over it a little salt, and stir the suet into the flour, and wet with one teacup of cold water; mix into a smooth and rather firm dough. Line six cups well buttered with the paste rolled out thin, wetting the edge. Peel, core and slice six tender sour apples, cover the apples with a cup and a half of sugar, fill the cups with the apples, then cover the top of the cups with paste. Set the cups in a stew pan large enough to hold them, into which put enough boiling water to reach to the middle of the cups. Steam them thus forty-five minutes, then turn them from the cups to a dish, sift sugar over them, and serve with spice sauce or any that is agreeable.

A GOOD CLEANSING FLUID.—The following is commended for washing alpaca, camel's hair, and other woolen goods, and for removing marks made on furniture, carpets, rugs, etc.: Four ounces ammonia, four ounces white Castile soap, two ounces alcohol, two ounces glycerine, two ounces ether. Cut the soap fine, dissolve in one quart water over the fire, add four quarts water. When nearly cold add the other ingredients. This will make nearly eight quarts and will cost about seventy-five cents. It must be put in a bottle and stoppered tight. It will keep good any length of time. To wash dress goods, take a pail of lukewarm water and put in a teacupful of the fluid, shake around well in this, and then rinse in plenty of clean water, and iron on wrong side while damp. For washing grease from coat collars, etc., take a little of the fluid in a cup of water, apply with a clean rag, and wipe well with a second rag. It will make every woolen fabric look bright and fresh.

PRUNING ROSES.—Probably by the time these lines are in print, pruning of roses will be generally done; yet it is not too late to put the question, are we right in cutting back so hard as is generally recommended for garden roses used solely for decorative purposes? Looking through a garden a few days since we came upon some half-standard rose trees with enormous heads, and we were told that with the exception of cutting out any decaying wood, no other pruning was attempted. Our informant went on to say that he had plenty of roses in summer, not so fine individually as those taken from hard pruned and fed roses, but yet of good size and well-colored; and he added, "What I lose in size of individual blooms I gain in the very much larger number of blooms, and the greater duration of bloom." We were also shown some dwarf roses on their own roots, but these were only sparingly pruned, and one main shoot was allowed to rise up among the rest, and as three or four strong shoots were breaking out from it, a standard head and stem were thus formed, with the bush below it. Furthermore, we were told that from the head of this main stem could be had roses at least a fortnight earlier than from the pruned trees. Exhibitors of roses may object to this practice, but when a good supply of garden roses is wanted there is much to be said in favor of the practice of withholding the pruning knife. But there is no reason why there should not be a combination in the garden of these unpruned rose bushes, and a small plantation of fine varieties cultivated for the production of flowers, say for the exhibition table. Such a plantation of roses is best kept by itself in a prepared piece of ground that can be reserved for this purpose, so that the cultivator can get about among his trees, to clean, thin, disbud, etc., and for the convenience of mulching the trees when necessary. Not but what good show roses may be grown on standard or dwarf trees planted along a border; but it is far best to have the choice rose plantation apart from the ordinary garden roses.—*London Gardeners' Chronicle.*