

We beg to add in conclusion that we do not mean to use any extraordinary efforts to secure subscribers beyond the somewhat important one of endeavouring to make it worth reading, and worth paying for. We have made arrangements for the support of the paper for a certain time, without any reference to the proceeds of the subscription list. After that period if the number of our subscribers warrants us in so doing, we shall proceed, if not, our undertaking will come to an end. In the meantime we beg to repeat the notice of our circular, that no copy of this paper will leave the office, and no advertisement be inserted in its columns, without having *first* been paid for. This rule may appear stringent and ungracious, but its observance is essential to the maintenance of an undertaking, by the instrumentality of which we hope, by help from on high, so to speak concerning Christ and His Church, as to bring glory to His Holy Name, and good to the souls of men.

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

The University Committee has at length closed, and a question of vital importance to the Church and education has undergone a most patient and thoroughly searching investigation. We have printed in another column the draft of a report submitted by the Chairman of Committee, with whose views we in the main coincide, as promising a truly National University, in which the Church may join without any compromise of principle. We have received also the report offered on behalf of University College, drafted by Mr. Langton—the present Vice-Chancellor, and Mr. Cayley—the aspirant to that office.

The Government has, we are inclined to think, wisely prevented the adoption of any report this Session, and we believe intend to bring in a measure of their own, reorganizing the whole constitution of the University, so as to embrace the several Colleges, and include on a satisfactory basis, Schools of Medicine and Law. We intend at an early date to take up the question more fully.

We have received the proposition relative to the Board of Missions for the Diocese of Toronto which will be brought before the Diocesan Synod; we shall comment upon it next week.

We regret that we have not received any ecclesiastical intelligence from the Lower Province: we hope that the omission will be supplied in our next number, and that in time all details of interest to churchmen throughout the country will find their way into these columns. We rely on the co-operation not only of our correspondents, but of the clergy generally.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The Canadian Church Press will be published in Toronto, every Wednesday afternoon, in time for the mails.

It will be supplied direct from the office of the Publishers Messrs. LOVELL AND GIBSON, Yonge Street, Toronto, for \$2 per annum, payable half-yearly, in advance: no reduction can under any circumstances be made, nor will there be any free list.

This rule may appear an unusual one, but the Editors beg to call the attention of the Subscribers to the fact, that this is not a commercial speculation, but an effort on the part of a COMMITTEE OF CLERGYMEN to supply a common want and to attain a common benefit. Until the circulation attains a point which they cannot immediately expect, every copy which is sent out will involve a personal loss to themselves. As these columns are not supported by any party, the price is regulated by the working expenses, and these have been reduced to the lowest point compatible with the respectable appearance of a journal which professes to be the organ of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Province of Canada.

All subscriptions to be sent by letter, registered, or otherwise secured, to the Editors, at the office of Messrs. Lovell & Gibson, Yonge Street, Toronto.

Literature.

A Dictionary of the Bible: comprising its Antiquities, Biography, Geography, and Natural History. Edited by William Smith, LL.D., Editor of "The Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities," &c. In 2 vols. Vol. I. A to Juttah. London: John Murray.

The present century may well be proud of the contributions which it has made to the literary knowledge of the Bible. Whatever be its relations to theology, strictly so called, it has certainly thrown a flood of light upon sacred literature. It has been, no doubt, the natural tendency of an age which is rather critical than creative, rather practical than contemplative, to dwell especially upon the historical books, and to realize the state of things, in the midst of which the characters of the sacred narrative moved. If we regard this as a test of the mere authenticity and historical verity of Scripture history, the links of proof which have thus been gathered up may be classed among the most valuable of the collateral evidences; or if, on the other hand, we regard it as so much additional help towards the understanding of the actual words of the inspired penmen, we may congratulate ourselves on the possession of information, the want of which cost many a Father and Doctor of the Church many a fruitless speculation.

But of late years the biblical student has suffered rather from the abundance than from the scantiness of the means at his disposal. The contributions to biblical literature have poured in from all quarters of the globe in every variety of form. In Europe itself it has been very difficult even for the master of several languages to keep himself well informed as to the progress of criticism; and here in Canada it has been quite impossible, even with the excellent aids furnished by English periodical literature, to realize the actual state of knowledge upon the subject. An attempt was made by Dr. Kitto some years ago, to give a conspectus of the results then attained in a "Biblical Encyclopædia;" but the names of some of his contributors were so questionable for their theology, and of others for their scholarship, that the attempt, however praiseworthy in itself, must be pronounced a decided failure. And, moreover, since that time our knowledge has on many of the most interesting points more than doubled. English criticism has been added to German speculation, and the results are at once much more sure and much more sound. The place which Dr. Kitto endeavoured to fill, is now occupied by Dr. Smith, whose previous labours in the cause of the literature of Greece and Rome constitute almost an epoch in English classical study. One of the chief causes of his success in all that he has undertaken has been his very judicious choice of coadjutors. If we look at the list of contributors to the first edition of the Dictionary of Antiquities in 1842, we cannot but be struck with the remarkable manner in which the subsequent career of most of them has proved their fitness for the work. In the present volume many of these first contributors are still found, including several of the most distinguished members of the English Universities, together with others whose special eminence in particular departments of biblical literature renders the whole work not a mere useful compilation but valuable in itself. Professor A. P. Stanley contributes several historical articles, relating chiefly to the early days of the Jewish monarchy, which, without perhaps containing much that is absolutely original in point of matter, show a clearer insight than we have ever before met with into the characters and circumstances of David and his contemporaries. Dr. W. Thomson, the Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, contributes two masterly articles on the Gospels, and the life of our Lord. The Rev. G. Rawlinson, the translator of "Herodotus," is the author of the articles on Babylon and Assyria. "Jerusalem" is treated by two contributors: its topography being expounded by the greatest living authority