

from existing resources? A practical scheme of consolidation would also at once bring our theological institutions within the range of the present resources of the Church. There are schemes to which the Church is in honour committed whose claims have been held in abeyance because of the pressing demands of our colleges. A more economic measure of college maintenance would afford greater scope for the healthy development of Christian activity in every department of Christian work.

Our Baptist friends, through the magnificent liberality of a gentleman who is possessed of other excellences besides a willingness to enjoy the luxury of laying out money for the promotion of education in his life-time, and the union of their educational institutions, have reached in advance of us a satisfactory solution of the problem to which we have now to turn our attention. Last week the leading representatives of the Methodist Church met in Toronto to deal with the same question. They are sagacious and practical. They came to the conclusion that scattering colleges were by no means conducive to educational strength. Is not the consolidation of the Presbyterian colleges the duty of the hour?

MODEST REQUESTS.

AMONG the virtues of the Roman Catholic Church, a modesty can scarcely be reckoned. Where it is numerically strong it is imperious and intolerant. Where it has not a majority it is ceaseless and clamorous in its demands. Among denominations the Roman Catholic is the veritable Oliver Twist without his simplicity and ingenuousness. It never knows when to stop asking for more. Unlike the other denominations it can not bring itself to be satisfied with our common school system. It must have a sectarian system of its own. As the solution of a difficulty this was conceded to the Catholics of the Province of Ontario. This special privilege they have enjoyed for a number of years, yet they are not satisfied. It is no secret that even this educational isolation is not the urgent desire of the Catholic laity, but only of their ecclesiastical superiors. When the children of Roman Catholic parents are withdrawn from the public schools, the latter in many instances declare that it is not their desire but that of the priests that causes the removal. Sometimes Roman Catholic parents have stated that the reason why they wished their children to attend common in preference to separate schools was that the educational advantages in the former were superior to those of the latter. Those who have had the opportunity of comparing the respective schools could say whether this preference was justified. Now it appears that separate schools as at present existing do not satisfy the representatives of the Roman Catholic Church.

The "Catholic Record," a denominational paper published in London, Ont., makes the following demands:

1. The portfolio of education kept in the hands of a minister, who should be assisted by two deputy ministers, one of them a Catholic.
2. A council of public instruction, and this divided into two sections, "one Catholic and the other non-Catholic."
3. The "establishment and partial endowment" of a Catholic university—that is, the payment of money out of the provincial treasury in support of a Catholic college with university powers.
4. A Catholic Normal School for the training of teachers.
5. The establishment of Catholic High Schools for boys, and public aid for both these high schools and the convent schools in which girls are now educated.
6. A Catholic central committee of examiners, and also Catholic county examiners.
7. A system of inspection of Catholic schools corresponding to the present system of inspection of public schools.
8. Township school districts and boards of trustees, with those schools that are supported by a Catholic majority considered as Catholic schools, and those supported by a Protestant majority treated as Protestant.
9. Special legislative aid granted to "dissentient schools, whether Protestant or Catholic," whenever the minority find difficulty in supporting them properly.
10. No text-books approved for Catholic Schools by the Educational Department without the consent of the Catholic portion of the proposed Council of Public Instruction.
11. No Catholic permitted to apply his school taxes to the support of any other than a Catholic school, and a share of the taxes paid by corporations apportioned according to the ratio of Catholic to Protestant population, applied in support of Catholic schools.
12. Power given to a Catholic or Protestant minority to apply their taxes in support of a school of their own complexion in an adjacent municipality.

Such are the propositions put forth, not it is presumed without inspiration. What do they mean?

Does the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Ontario desire a moderate encroachment on the control of the Ontario system of education; and, hoping to secure this, do they tabulate preposterous propositions like the foregoing, that they may gain their end; or is this a bid for the generosity of contending political parties in the hope of enhancing the value of the Catholic vote?

The authorities of the Roman Catholic Church are sufficiently astute to know that the people of Ontario would never think of granting what they ask for. Public opinion concedes to the Roman Catholic Church the privileges accorded to all other denominations. Their right to these privileges is freely conceded, but to give superior advantages to which they have no claim will be respectfully but peremptorily denied.

If our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens desire entire separation from the national school system, carefully elaborated and framed to meet the wants of the people, well and good. They are free to withdraw and establish one of their own with all the stipulations they require save one. The people of Ontario will not consent to Government support of an educational system antagonistic to their own.

If Roman ecclesiastics do not know when to forego their demands on the forbearance and generosity of their fellow citizens, who do not accept their ecclesiastical dogmas, they had better be told in plain terms that if they long for the privileged enjoyment of educational luxuries of the description they now ask for they can have them every one but at their own cost.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This admirable monthly is a welcome guest in many homes and it deserves to be. The reading matter and the illustrations are of the very best description.

ST. NICHOLAS (New York: The Century Co.)—As befits the festive season, "St. Nicholas" for December is a resplendent number. The best writers and artists have co-operated in the production of one of the finest issues of this delightful and instructive serial.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper and Brothers.)—This publication, so acceptable and useful to young readers, possesses an advantage in being a weekly magazine. Its contents are fresh, varied and instructive. The best authors write for it, and the best artists are striving to make it a thing of beauty.

ELECTRA: A Belles Lettres Monthly for Young People. Edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leyburn. (Louisville, Kentucky: Isabella M. Leyburn.)—The December number of this high-class family journal is adorned with a beautiful steel-engraved portrait of Rosa Bonheur, and there is the usual variety of interesting articles, original and selected. In particular, a lively little paper by Cheveux Gris, on "The Esthetic Craze," contains some seasonable and wholesome wisdom.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. J. Sanderson, D.D., managing editor. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The current number of the "Pulpit Treasury" amply sustains the excellence attained in the earlier issues of this really valuable publication. The leading sermons in the December number are by Dr. William M. Taylor, Revs. G. W. F. Birch, and W. D. Howard. There are also a number of suggestive outlines of discourses by eminent preachers, and a variety of useful articles both of special and general interest. The portrait of Dr. William M. Taylor, of whom and the late Dr. Hatfield there are appreciative biographical sketches, and a view of Broadway Tabernacle embellish the present number. Subscribers to the "Pulpit Treasury" get in return far more than the worth of their money.

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE. (New York: The Century Co.)—The well-known benevolent-looking and kindly face of Peter Cooper greets the readers on opening the present number of "The Century." The opening papers, beautifully illustrated, is by Francis George Heath on the "Fairiest County in England," the one selected for this distinction is Devon. H. H. with her wonted interest writes on "Echoes in the City of the Angels," being descriptive of Los Angeles. Another paper deserving special mention is on "Original Documents of the New Testament." "Dr.

Sevier," and "The Bread-winners" are continued and grow in interest. There are also several short stories and exquisite poems in this number. The illustrations are very numerous and of superior excellence. Questions of living interest are discussed in Topics of the Time and Open Letters, and Bric-a-Brac shows no falling off.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The current number is full of interest. The novels, "A Roman Singer," by F. Marion Crawford, and "Newpost," by George Parsons Lathrop, are continued. William Chauncey Langdon's paper, "Recollections of Rome during the Italian Revolution," is also continued. There is from the posthumous papers of Ralph Waldo Emerson a characteristic sketch of his aunt, "Mary Moody Emerson"—a remarkable woman whose strong character and love of books did much to shape the life of the Emerson brothers. In "Luther and His Work," Frederic H. Hedge writes with fire and force, and the true nature and influence of Romanism are set forth with equal fearlessness and fairness. Richard Grant White cleverly traces "Some Alleged Americanisms," to non-American origins, and claims for a good deal of so-called "slang" respectable and even classical authority.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper and Brothers.)—The December number of "Harper" reminds us that Christmas time is approaching. Many of the articles and illustrations have a joyous air about them. It is the Christmas number, one in every way worthy of the season. There are several full page engravings. The frontispiece, a quaint piece of art, represents "Under the Mistletoe." George William Curtis takes Christmas for his theme, which he treats with his accustomed power. The artist has not been niggardly in his embellishments of the subject. There is an interesting paper on "Alfred Tennyson" by Anne Thackeray Ritchie, also profusely illustrated. William Black writes *con amore* on a subject with which he is familiar, "A Gossip About the West Highlanders." These constitute the more solid contents of the present number. Tales, stories, and poems by several of the most popular writers together with the usual departments complete a magnificent number of this favourite magazine.

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY. Edited by Geo. H. Robinson, M.A. (Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.)—In this, the November number of the Monthly, will be found a quantity of instructive and interesting matter. "At some risk of being uninteresting," which he is not by any means, Principal Bryant amplifies and defends the position taken by him at a late meeting of the Provincial Teachers' Association concerning the "Education Administration." Principal Spotton discusses in an intelligent manner on "Natural Science at Matriculation." The interesting account of "Three Weeks in Dakota," by Prof. Montgomery, is concluded; and D. J. Gregg contributes an article worthy of some attention on "Literature in Schools." Principal Wilson is characteristically vigorous in his treatment of "Contemporary Opinion on Educational Topics"—an address delivered at the convocation of University College. The departments of School Work, Teachers' Associations, Contemporary Literature, Editorial Notes, etc., are replete with matter of great interest to those for whom this Monthly is more especially published.

FRANK LESLIE'S SUNDAY MAGAZINE. (New York: Mrs. Frank Leslie.)—The present number completes the fourteenth volume of this popular magazine. The Rev. J. G. Ager contributes the paper under the heading of "Religious Denominations in the United States." The question to which he supplies an answer is "What is Swedenborgianism?" "Sacred Musicians of the Nineteenth Century.—Sir John Goss and John Bennett" by Alfreton Hervey sustains the interest aroused by the former papers of the series. "The Miracles of Christ" are continued, and the serial story "Mr. Burke's Nieces" is concluded. A most interesting paper "From Darkness to Light," by C. F. Gordon Cumming gives an account of the American Mission in Hawaii. There is besides a great variety of useful and instructive reading in the "Sunday Magazine." It is rendered very attractive by a great profusion of illustrative engravings, many of them being of decided excellence. The beginning of a new volume affords a good opportunity for subscribing for this magazine. It supplies valuable reading for the family circle.