

## CHURCH AND CONGREGATIONAL LOYALTY.

In these Easter days and Easter Sunday just past, to which many churches pay much more importance than we do, and make such elaborate preparations for, great temptations are set before many Presbyterians to forsake their own Churches and ministers and services; and very many by running after these Easter attractions, shew that they are not proof against such temptations. The majority of these cases is no doubt attributable to mere thoughtlessness. Put it goes deeper than that, and is attended with worse consequences than a simple paucity of attendance, especially in the evening, at the Churches and on the ministry of their own congregation. Occasional leaving one's own church and minister for good reasons may be excused, but wholesale and persistent running to other Churches and services on their high days, is not good for ourselves, it looks like a slight upon the minister of our choice, and upon our own Church services. It is not a matter of indifference whether we are loyal to these or not. We ought always to be, and it is especially a time to shew that, when temptations are placed before us which may test our loyalty.

The excuse usually given by those who desert their own Church and minister on such days as Easter, for example, is to see the Church decorations or hear the music. Surely those who are guilty of so lightly turning their backs upon the Church which has the first claim upon them, have a very false idea of the object for which Christians go to Church. It is for the worship of God and the maintaining of our own spiritual life by prayer and praise, in the reading and hearing of the word preached. There is no pretence on the part of those who leave their own Church and neglect their own minister, that the prayers in other Churches are more reverent, devout and uplifting, or that the preaching is more instructive or helpful in any way. None of these things, no, only the decorations and the music are more elaborate and aesthetic. To go to any Church for these reasons would appear to degrade our Church going into very much the same thing as going to see a flower show, or an art gallery or attending a sacred concert. It is, unless there is a much higher object for attending such services than is usually given, a desecration of the Lord's day, none the less but the more, because it happens to be done in a sacred edifice, the Church; it is injurious to one's own spiritual life, and disloyal to one's own Church and congregation. We hold that Presbyterians are the most Catholic and liberal in their spirit of all denominations, and because of this we need to take care that our liberality does not degenerate into disloyalty.

The April *Cosmopolitan* opens with an article on "Vesuvius, Destroyer of Cities." Then follows "Some American Figure-Painters" by Kenyon Cox, "A Clever Emperor and a confederation of Nations" by John Brisben Walker, "The Influence of Victor Hugo" by Edmund Gosse, and Short Stories by F. Hopkinson Smith, the clever Montreal writer, Israel Zangwill and Maarten Maartens. The *Cosmopolitan*, Irvington, New York.

## A "VETERAN JOURNALIST."

Mr. John Cameron, of the London Advertiser, was recently appointed Post Master of the city in which he has spent the best part of his life; and the appointment has been favorably commented upon by journals of all shades of opinion. Many of the newspapers speak of the retirement of a "veteran" journalist, and congratulate Mr. Cameron on his long and successful career. Though Mr. Cameron has not attained to a patriarchal age, it is true that, as we count time in these days, his career has been long. Thirty eight years ago, when barely out of his teens, he founded the journal with which his name has been so long and so honorably associated.

The young journalist knew what he wished to do; and although he no doubt had his share of disappointments he has kept working on, always striving to reach the high ideals of his youthful days. According to men on both sides of politics he fought a fair fight, and was never a mere party hack, but rather maintained something of the idealistic in the midst of life's prosy routine. This is the real success of life that a man shall keep his spirit whole, and his aims clean.

We can sum up the situation as to journalism in Canada in a few words. At present the financial rewards are not many or high; but the need for good men on the press of the country is great. In the journalistic profession we require men of literary culture, imbued with a true patriotic spirit, and in full sympathy with the difficulties and struggles of practical life. There are many such men; and our prayer is that there shall be more to help build up the country in righteousness and nobleness of life.

The men who speak to the people through the press create a constant living influence upon the daily life of the people. We do not expect from them any narrow puritanism; but we are sure that those who think highly of their profession will use their influence on the side of freedom and brotherliness—for the highest good of their readers. Mr. Cameron can reflect with satisfaction that his career may stimulate younger journalists to pure and noble effort in the discharge of their important duties.

## JAMES ROBERTSON MEMORIAL FUND.

—The Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto, thankfully acknowledges receipt of the following contributions on behalf of this fund:—

Mrs. A. R. Creelman, Toronto.....	\$ 50 00
Rev. Dr. Crombie, Smith's Falls.....	2 00
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Rev. Dr. R. Hamilton, Stratford, Ont.	7 00

Reports have been received from many congregations that steps have been taken to secure contributions towards this Memorial Fund. It is hoped that all parties intending to help will forward their contributions as early as possible. These will be acknowledged in the columns of this paper.

## Literary Notes.

The cover of Harper's Bazar for April is distinctly spring-like as well as being most artistic. This number is largely devoted to the discussion of new spring styles of all kinds, though house-keeping topics of a general nature are also discussed. "Diantha's Garden and Mine" is a very pretty story, and the serial, "The Red House," is continued in a most interesting vein. The fourth "Tragedy of Childhood" is "His First Love Affair and Quarrel" which quite equals the three that have appeared before. This is an invaluable magazine for home-makers. Harper and Brothers, New York.

The Studio for March opens with an article on "A Swiss Painter: Charles Giron" by Robert Mobbs. Illustrations are given of the work of this very successful painter. Then follows a most interesting article on "A Country Cottage," also illustrated; "Decorative Art in New Guinea," "A Young English Sculptor: Gilbert Bayes," "The Art of True Enamelling upon Metals," "Notes on Contemporary Japanese Art"—these are among the subjects discussed. Most interesting are "Some Recent Drawings of English and Continental Gardens, by George S. Elgood." The Studio, London, England.

An attractive little book by Charles H. Parkhurst, the well known New York divine, entitled "The Sunny Side of Christianity," received from the publishing house of Fleming H. Revell Company, (Toronto and Chicago) has been overlooked. "The aim of Christianity is to make human hearts as much like God's heart as possible." With this for his theme, Dr. Parkhurst, in his own vivid style, and with a sunniness that is wonderfully winning, treats of Love in its different relations: "Love in the Heart vs Phosphorus in the Brain"; "Love as a Theory and an experience"; "Love as a Lubricant"; "Love as a Means of Knowing." The result of all is "a mind environed and a heart comforted." Will do good wherever read.

Poet-Lore (Poet-Lore Co., Boston, 65c.) a quarterly magazine of letters, contains a varied budget which is quite attractive to the student of literature. In "Poetry and Fiction" we have the Tarn of the Modern Student—a tale by Helen Sterling Thomas. "The Last Day," from the Danish of Jorgensen. "Glimpses of Present Day Poets." Selected poems by Stedman, Kimball, Manshori, and Peabody. Then we have four other departments each with a number of contributions, as follows: Appreciations and Essays, School of Literature, Reviews, Life and Letters. In the last section we have this given as a specimen prayer written by Mr. Charles James for a woman of liberal ideas "to teach her child.

"Now I lie down to sleep  
Softly may slumber creep  
Over my eyes.  
May I be true and pure,  
May I of love be sure  
When I arise."

The Easter Ladies' Home Journal gives the leading place to an article on "The President's Daughter" illustrated by three pretty photographs of Miss Roosevelt. A most interesting series of articles is begun in this number, "Helen Keller's Own Story of Her Life"—also profusely illustrated. A new feature of the Journal is called "The Good-Time Garden," which is to be devoted to the little ones. The various departments of cooking, dress-making, fashions, etc., are quite up to the high standard maintained by this magazine. The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia.