

present time, and pointed with steadfast finger to the blessed life beyond. The work of the Sabbath school and Christian efforts among the young have been maintained with a diligence and fidelity unsurpassed, and missions to the heathen have been sustained with a degree of zeal and liberality that has been unequalled since apostolic times. With profound gratitude it can be said that in work for the advancement of God's kingdom the year that is gone has been one of encouraging progress. May the year on which we enter have still grander achievements to record, and may the daily prayer, "Thy kingdom come," be accompanied by deeper personal and united consecration, and thereby become, in the truest sense of the words, A Happy New Year!

ROMISH DIPLOMACY.

THE Divine Founder of the Kingdom of God said, "My kingdom is not of this world." It is not of this world in its spirit and methods. With the Church of Rome it is different. The chief representative of that Church never ceases to declare that he is a territorial sovereign and that he ought to be recognized as the ruler of mankind in virtue of his claim as God's vice-gerent on earth. The result is that free men all over the world deny a claim so arrogant and preposterous, and this leads to ceaseless intrigue to make the Roman Catholic Church a political factor in every land where it exists. Unchangeable as it may be in some things, it can yet adapt itself with adroit confidence to the political condition of every country. If a people are governed absolutely the ecclesiastical authorities will manage to get the ear of the autocrat, and their customary success will have deserted them if they fail to make friends of some of the royal favourites who loiter round the throne.

In Brazil one of the most potent causes for the recent overthrow of the imperial form of government was the ascendancy which the Jesuits had acquired over the Comtesse d'Eu, who would in the natural course of things have succeeded to the throne in a few years at most. It is evident that these most subtle of all political intriguers had secured such influence over the heir apparent that she would have been as passive to their behests as are the members of their Order to Father Anderledy. With the relentless tenacity characteristic of their policy they would have held on to the advantages they had gained. It is quite possible that serious difficulties are about to beset the young republic, and there is no doubt that the most active and persistent of all intriguers will be the members of the black militia who happen to remain in Brazil.

Where free institutions prevail the representatives of the most worldly of all the Churches never forget what they conceive to be their own interests. They avail themselves of all means bestowed on them by the constitution for the furtherance of the temporal interests of their Church, and seek to extend its influence in every department of human affairs. Here we see the anomaly of an absolute despotism—claiming supremacy wherever it possesses a numerical majority—pleading for all the privileges that free institutions confer. In the British Dominions it demands all the freedom of worship the laws secure, but in Spain it denies equal liberties to Protestants, and there they are subjected to all the disabilities that blind intolerance can devise. It is not for a moment to be supposed that intelligent Protestants would, in ecclesiastical matters, fall back on the eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth policy of past days. The safety and prosperity of the Evangelical Church, the freedom and well-being of nations depend on liberty of conscience freely conceded and freely exercised. Nothing can be gained by bigotry and retrogression. Ever forward lies the pathway of progress. The special need of the present time is a vigilant observance of the Church of Rome as a political power. Mainly by the exercise of that power it hopes to regain its waning hold over emancipated peoples. It is busy with its intrigues everywhere. In Protestant England as well as in Ontario and Quebec.

The exigencies of political parties are imperiling our national welfare. None of the existing parties can claim that in this respect they are immaculate. The Irish question has set both parties in England to intrigue with the Vatican. The English Roman Catholics are strongly opposed to Home Rule. The Irish Catholics on the other hand favour it and the Errington and Symmons missions to Rome and the visits of Peisico and Satolli to Ireland, not to mention the regular communication constantly maintained between Dublin and the Vatican, show the difficulty of the task of reconciling discordant elements and at the same time advancing the politi-

cal influence and interests of the Church. Hence the proposal to endow a Roman Catholic University in Ireland and the faint hope hinted at that diplomatic relations with the Vatican may yet be established. This is one of the latest schemes of the papacy to be used as a leverage for regaining the temporal sovereignty so completely lost and so passionately regretted. Monseigneur Satolli, who represented the Vatican at the recent Baltimore celebration, has gone back delighted at the courteous reception he met with on this continent, and so exuberant were his spirits that he is reported to have said that he received assurances that diplomatic relations between Washington and the Vatican might easily be established. The illustrious Italian cleric, finding that he was treated with a degree of respect to which he is a stranger at Rome, became so sanguine that the American Republic would establish a legation at the ecclesiastical headquarters of the Roman Church that he began to talk about it. The idea is absurd but its very absurdity might lead some to treat it seriously. The perverse Premier of Quebec indeed talked a little nonsense recently about Leo XIII. being the rightful sovereign and King Humbert the usurper, but with such folly neither the Canadian people, the English people nor the people of the United States have the slightest sympathy. Even the Roman Catholic people of these countries do not regard their Italian co-religionists with such aversion that they would like to see them deprived of their liberties and placed again under the miseries of papal rule from which they so heroically strove to be delivered. Why should any nation, above all any Protestant nation, have a diplomatic representative at the Vatican? The Vatican is not a nation, nor is the Pope a sovereign Prince. He is neither more nor less than the life-term moderator of the Roman Catholic Church and there is no more sense or propriety in sending to him a resident ambassador or plenipotentiary extraordinary than there would be were King Humbert to propose sending a political representative to Queen's University, Kingston, to maintain diplomatic relations with Principal Grant.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—A new volume of this indispensable literary weekly makes its appearance with the present number.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This favourite little magazine for little folks begins the New Year with a very fine number.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—It appears to be the aim of this excellent weekly to combine instruction and recreation in a judicious manner, and in this laudable effort it employs the talent of authors and artists who have earned distinction by their meritorious work.

AMERICAN STATESMEN Series of papers.—Among the notable features of the *Youth's Companion* next year will be a series of popular articles on the methods of government. "The Senate" will be treated by Senator Hoar; "The House," by the Hon. John G. Carlisle, and "The Opposition," by the Hon. Thomas B. Reed. Mr. Blaine will also contribute an important article to the series.

THE CANADIAN ALMANAC for 1890 is more valuable and serviceable than ever. The issue for the coming year has the following new features: Increase in size of the book, lists of registered physicians in Ontario, the members of the Dominion and Ontario House are divided according to their politics, the salaries of the Government Officials are given, full list of educational institutions and miscellaneous societies; a lithograph of the new Parliament buildings, Toronto, is given with every copy.

THE ARENA. (Boston: The Arena Publishing Co.)—On the side of what is called advanced thought the January issue of this new magazine makes a strong presentation, as an enumeration of the contributors will show: Robert G. Ingersoll, on "God in the Constitution"; Dion Boucicault on "Spots on the Sun"; Louis Fréchette on "The Original Blue-Beard"; Laurence Gronlund on "Nationalism"; Francis Albert Doughty, "Evolution in Popular Ideals"; Hugh O. Pentecost, "The Crime of Capital Punishment"; J. Ranson Bridge, "Nationalistic Socialism"; Henry George, "To Destroy the Rum Power"; Joaquin Miller, "Comanche," and W. H. H. Murray, "A Legend of the Saguenay."

E. B. TREAT, Publisher, 5 Cooper Union, sends us a typographic print of "The Angelus." This famous picture, bought at a recent auction sale in Paris for the fabulous sum of \$110,600, is now on

exhibition in New York. It represents two peasants in the field. At the close of day, the "vesper hour," they hear the welcome sound of the distant Angelus bells, calling to prayer; this son and daughter of toil, unable to meet in His holy temple, assume an attitude of silent prayer and devotion, whose bold figures are represented in the foreground of the picture. A beautiful poetic charm and religious sentiment pervades the scene, making it a lovely home picture and art treasure for framing. On heavy plate paper, 19 x 24, post free, \$1.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—The January number opens with a new serial work of fiction, "Sydney," by Margaret Deland, and Gailord Hunt discusses "The United States Pension Office." Agnes Repplier discusses pleasantly on "English Love-Songs." A paper of more than ordinary interest is on "A Precursor of Milton," detailing the life and work of Avitus, Bishop of Vienne, in the fifth century. Other papers discuss "The Government of Switzerland," "Edward Fitzgerald," and "French and English," based on the recent work of Philip Gilbert Hamerton. Oliver Wendell Holmes continues his charming series of papers "Over the Tea Cups." Thomas Bailey Aldrich, David W. M. Burn and Edith M. Thomas contribute the poetry of the number, while Henry James and Edwin Lassetter Bynner add their quota to their interesting serials. The usual departments are unusually good.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The number for January comes to us in a new dress, and with the whole mechanical appearance improved. This number begins a new year, and the prospectus promises an "embarrassment of riches," a host of new writers, and progress along every line. The "Literature" department contains several noteworthy articles. Dr. Pierson leads off with a characteristic paper entitled "Is There to be a New Departure in Missions?" which merits careful reading. His article also on the "Bishop of the Niger" (Crowther, whose photograph adorns the number) is a marvel of interest. Dr. Ellinwood, on "Asceticism in Missions," writes as he always does, with clearness and force. Perhaps the most noted paper in the number is contributed by Rev. James Johnston, F.S.S., of England, Secretary of the late World's Conference on Missions, on "Education as an Evangelistic Agency," an eminently timely subject, and one which at present greatly agitates the friends of missions, especially abroad. No man is better qualified to write upon it than Mr. Johnston. The other seven departments of the *Review* are full of missionary intelligence from all parts of the world-field, reports of societies, statistics, Editorial Notes and Monthly Concert matter. We note that Dr. Ellinwood, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, has charge of the Monthly Concert Department for 1890. On the whole, the third year of this Review of Universal Missions opens with, it possible, increased vigour and promise of enhanced power and usefulness.

THE TREASURY FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—This admirable monthly commences the year with a prime number. Each article and illustration is first-class. The great object of the magazine—excellence in matter and helpfulness in preparation for Christian work—is never overlooked. Rev. Dr. Pratt, of Norwich, Conn., has the first place. His excellent portrait, fine sermon, beautiful view of church, and sketch of his life, will be gratifying to all his friends. The lecture by Dr. M. B. Wharton, on "The Elect Lady," is a fine specimen of pulpit exposition. "Industrious Children," by Rev. W. H. Whitbread, is a model sermon for the young. President Andrews, of Brown University, discusses with great ability the question, "Does the Christian Ministry Meet the Educational Requirements of the Age?" This is the first of a series of articles on "Living Issues" by College Presidents, which will appear in successive monthly numbers. Bishop Foster's article on "Qualifications for the Ministry of the Time"; Professor Austin Phelps' discussion of "Retribution, and How to Preach It"; and Dr. Murphy's *expose* of "Jesuitism," which is a counterpart of Dr. Gordon's famous article in the December number on "The Character and Aim of the Society of Jesus," deserve the earnest, careful attention of every reader. Other articles of special note are "The Preacher's Power," "How to Have a Working Church," "Speak Well of Your Pastor," "Missions in the Sandwich Islands," "Hindrances to the Success of Missions," "Doing for Others and Walking with God." These, with "Leading Thoughts of Sermons," "Light on the International Lessons" and bright, suggestive editorials, etc., make a number filled with the richest matter.