

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

to the idea of the brotherhood of all men, and the special sacredness which attaches to Christian brotherhood. From this arises the obligation enforced by the precept and still more by the example of Christ, which to all Christians is law, that the strong should help the weak. Many of these aged ministers are infirm as well as aged, and their infirmities are the result of labors in behalf of a cause, the cause of Christ dear to all Christians, and by which we all have been benefited so much. We owe them, therefore, a debt of real moral obligation. It is notorious also that many of them are not only infirm but actually poor, and that for reasons which have made it unavoidable. While engaged in active labor, and at the best part of their life, their salaries for the most part have been so small, that the wonder is, not that they were unable to make any provision for old age, but how they managed to bring up their families, educate them and give them a start in life so well as they have done. And now these men with their wives are aged, many of them infirm and also poor. And there are widows and orphans of ministers who have been left dependent upon the Church because they have been bereaved of their husbands or fathers. Surely these do have a claim upon the Christian kindness and practical aid of their brethren in the Church which is properly described as special.

The labors of these aged and infirm ministers, it may be added, in many cases have been given to the Church in her most laborious fields, in loneliness and obscurity, struggling with straitened circumstances, and yet were given not only uncomplainingly but cheerfully; and by means of them not only has the Church we love been built up, but the cause of Christ in the salvation of immortal souls, in the promotion of truth and righteousness in the land has been extended, and Canada made the desirable country for a home which we know it to be. There can be no doubt or question as to the claims which these aged and infirm ministers, and ministers' widows and orphans have upon the Christian sympathy and help of their brethren in the Church.

The time of the year has come at which the Church is called upon to make provision for these their brethren. It is difficult to understand how any ministers, or sessions, or congregations with these facts before them, which it requires but a little thought to know and understand the force of, can simply do nothing, pass by on the other side and give no heed whatever to these claims. "Whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" So says the Spirit by the Apostle John, and yet many in the Church who would be indignant if it were denied that they have the love of God in them, give this very evidence that they do not have it; they shut up their bowels of compassion from their brethren when they are called upon to help them. At best the response which is made to the appeal on their behalf is small, and in too many cases there is none whatever. What is strangest of all is, that the fault is largely due, it is believed, to the indifference of brethren in the ministry to the claims of these aged and infirm ministers, and of those whose widows or orphans may need the help of this fund, which they do so little or nothing for.

Last year the amount contributed for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund was \$8,718, less than the year before by \$889. For widows and orphans of ministers there was given by the Church \$5,759, an increase over the previous year of \$105. These sums together make for these two objects \$14,477, being less for both by \$784 than in the previous year. It amounted only to a fraction more than seven cents per communicant. The amount given to the annuitants on these funds is not large at the most, and there is danger that it will have to be made smaller. But a very little more from each member would meet the modest demands made, and save the Church the humiliation of failing to make up the small amount needed for each one now upon these funds, and save those looking to it, to many of whom it means much, the disappointment and real deprivation which the cutting down of even a few dollars will bring with it. Ten cents a member instead of seven would make all the difference, and enable the committee to meet its obligations. It lies very largely in the power of the ministers of the Church to say whether this shall be done or not; it is to them the eyes of these aged and infirm ministers and ministers' widows and orphans turn, and surely they will not turn in vain.

THERE were some important statements made in the addresses given by several prominent men at the University Convocation lately held here, which we could have wished to see urged more upon the attention of the public by the press of this city especially than they have been. No more can a nation than a man live by bread alone, and hence the importance to any people who wish to live the nobler life of the higher learning which it is the work of a university to give. The welfare and success of the University of Toronto is a matter of importance to the Dominion, more especially to the Province of Ontario, and to no part of the population of this Province more than to Presbyterians, because, first, Knox College is and has always been in such close affiliation with the University, and also because so large a proportion of its students belong to the Presbyterian body.

It is of importance that all those especially who care anything for the higher education of their sons and daughters, and for the honor and well-being of the country in the highest sense, should know something of the kind of work done at the University, and of the facilities it possesses for doing the work which it exists to do. All the many alumni of the University, whether still resident in Canada or scattered in other lands, will always be glad to know of the good service it is rendering, and of its honourable record and standing among other institutions of learning. In this regard President Loudon, in his address at the Convocation, stated some facts which, we fancy, will be new to the great majority of the graduates of the University, and which cannot but be most gratifying to them all.

After referring to steps now being taken to arrange for post-graduate courses, and for the prosecution of original work in various departments for teaching in which students must now repair to the older and wealthier universities of Europe or the United States, he went on to say, that

"He had been compiling statistics of the various positions held by graduates of the University in the institutions across the line. The returns though still incomplete, were most gratifying, and afforded a signal proof of the ability of the students and the thoroughness of the system of instruction given in the University. The list contained no less than eighty-one names, not including Chicago, Harvard, Yale and Princeton, from which replies had not yet come in. As it stands it includes all the great Universities of the United States, and he called special attention to the fact that, it is in just those Universities whose reputation is best, that Toronto's graduates are most numerous represented and have been specially honored. For Clark University there are fourteen names, for Johns Hopkins fifteen, for Chicago ten, and for Columbia seven, in these four important graduate institutions alone forty-six names in all out of a total of eighty-one. Every graduating arts department of the University is represented, and several of the honors fall to the comparatively new faculty of medicine. These figures, it will be observed, do not include graduates appointed to honorable positions in Toronto and other Canadian Universities."

Testimony of a similarly honorable kind comes to us from quite a different quarter, Professor Viedor of the University of Marburg. This eminent teacher was requested by the German Association of Modern Language masters and professors, to collect information from various sources outside of Germany, showing what progress has been made in instruction in living languages, and particularly in the preparation of teachers for that work. His enquiries extended to twenty-one countries in Europe and America, and his report concludes thus: "The countries which can teach us most upon the points in question, apart from France, Scandinavia and Finland, are Chili and Canada, which is in this instance represented by Ontario, and Ontario by its Provincial University."

The above is a record of which we in Ontario, and the University, and all its alumni may well be proud. It should give confidence to all the patrons and friends of the University, and to the general public respecting the thoroughness and excellence of the work done in it by the teachers and professors of the institution. We shall not say more at present, but shall return again to this subject as it is of moment to the public, and in some measure specially to our Church and Presbyterians generally. In the meantime we quote President Loudon's closing words:

"On the whole the outlook is favorable. Apart from the question of finance, I think I may say that it never was more so. At no time in the history of the University, as far as I know it, has there been more steady and energetic effort in the pursuit of learning or more encouraging results, as far as it is possible to gauge those results by available standards. The faculty and myself look forward to the work of the year with hopefulness and with the strong desire to maintain for the University the proud position it has already won, and, if it lies within our power, to make still further advancement."

## Books and Magazines.

WAITING ON GOD. By the Rev. Andrew Murray. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company.

The title of this book will indicate its general character, and especially when it is known that Rev. Andrew Murray is the author of it. The author feels, as many devoted Christians feel, that God has not reached the limit of what He can do, and is willing to do for His people; that it is their duty to trust Him with a more implicit confidence, to expect to understand His glorious character better, and to look for fuller revelations from Him. There is a satisfaction, a peace, a blessedness, a power in the Christian life that comparatively few Christians enjoy. How are these things to be attained? Mr. Murray points out that this fullness of blessing can come only to those who wait upon God. He therefore enjoins Christians hopefully, trustfully, patiently, continually to wait upon God for supplies, for direction, for counsel—in a word, for everything. The book is sweetly devotional, and any one who reads a page of it anywhere will be almost impelled to say, "My soul, wait thou only upon God."

"The Fifteenth International Christian Endeavor Convention, Washington, D.C., July 8-13, 1896," is the official report of this great convention. It contains a very full account of all that was done at this great gathering, especially the speeches, reports, etc., and closes with a table showing the number of Societies of Christian Endeavor of several grades throughout the world in July last, and, which is most helpful, an index to the matters contained in the book which extends to 346 pages, and in paper cover costs but 50 cts., cloth \$1, postpaid. Every Endeavorer should have it. It will refresh the memories of those who were at the convention and be a good substitute for it to those who were not. [William Shaw, 646 Washington St., Boston, Mass., U.S.]

From beginning to end the November *Atlantic Monthly* is filled with articles of interest. "Marm Lisa," is continued and two begun are "Cheerful Yesterdays," and "The Juggler." Among those of immediate interest we may mention, "Causes of Agricultural Unrest," by J. Lawrence Laughlin, "Utah as an Industrial Object Lesson," "A Night and a Day in Spain," "The German and the German-American," "Trade Unions in the United Kingdom." Other interesting articles are, "Early Recollections of Bret Harte," "A History of the Gift of Painless Surgery," "Out of the Book of Humanity," and "The Young Shakespeare." "A Study of Romeo," "Discriminating and Valuable Comments on New Books," and the "Contributors' Club," finish up the number. [Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 11 East Seventeenth Street, New York, N.Y., U.S.]

The *Biblical World* for October contains several very interesting articles chief among which are an interesting sketch of the Rev. A. B. Davidson, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Hebrew in the New College, Edinburgh, by the Rev. Professor A. B. Bruce D.D., of the Free Church College, Glasgow. This is prefaced by an excellent likeness. "The Relation of the Seminary to Previous Bible Study," by Professor O. H. Gates Ph.D., of Oberlin Theological Seminary; "The Apocrypha" by Professor Frank C. Porter. President Harper continues his useful "Outline Topics in the History of Old Testament Prophecy," dealing with Jeremiah and his contemporaries. The Rev. R. H. Beattie, A.M., of Newburgh, New York, contributes "The Certificate of an Apostasy during the Persecution of Decian." An interesting contribution is "A Paraphrase of the Epistle to the Romans," by Prof. G. B. Stevens, Ph.D., D.D. Reviews and notices of various books and articles conclude the number. [The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., U.S.]

The *Missionary Review of the World* is never dull or uninteresting to any lover of missions. The number for November fully sustains its high character. The second article on the late William E. Dodge by the editor appears this month. "Six Years in Utah" and "Foreign Community Life in China" are written from personal experience of the writers. Article II of "The Russian Student" is given by Professor G. Godet. The disputed subject of "The Place of the School in the Work of Evangelization" is discussed by Rev. John M. Kyle, D.D., of Nova Friburg, Brazil. An interesting account is given of "Professor White's Call to India," by the Rev. James M. Gray, D.D., Boston. The International department contains interesting papers on "The Doshistra," "The Attitude of the Chinese Government toward Christian Missions," and "Li Hung Chang and the Missionary Representatives." Other departments are filled as usual with interesting and varied information on missions and mission work. [Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30 Lafayette Place, New York, N.Y., U.S.]

That long established and sterling magazine, *The Living Age*, presents in its weekly numbers the best fiction, the ablest essays, the most interesting bits of biography, adventure and travel, in a word, the most readable and profitable contributions to foreign periodical literature. Recent numbers contain, with much more equally good and interesting reading, "Mrs. Meynell's Two Books of Essays," by George Meredith; "Recent Science," by Prince Krapotkin; "An Excursion in the Atlas Mountains," by Walter B. Harris; "Sir Henry Parkes," by A. Patchett Martin; "Thomas Henry Huxley," by Wilfrid Ward; "Some Short Notes on Poetry for Children," by E. V. Lucas; "Some Recollections of Cardinal Newman," by Aubrey de Vere; "African Folklore," by A. Werner; "A Northern Pilgrimage," by Wemyss Reid. At least one short story and selections of recent poetry appear in each weekly issue. Information regarding "New Features" about to be introduced with special offers to new subscribers, may be obtained by application to the publishers. The Living Age Co., Boston.