

religious instruction, is a feature well calculated to give satisfaction to all. The people have the matter really in their own hands. And the number of pupils, twenty-five or upwards in villages and rural districts, and forty or upwards in towns and cities for whom Trustees shall, if required by their parents or guardians, provide a duly certificated Roman Catholic teacher, is surely as reasonable and liberal as could be expected, and gives evidence of the desire of the Manitoba Government to consult, as far as possible, the religious preferences of parents. That the children of all different creeds and nationalities are to be brought together into the same school, and grow up and be taught side by side, it must be acknowledged by every intelligent, enlightened citizen is a most wise and beneficial arrangement, well calculated to promote mutual consideration and respect, to allay religious animosities, do away with religious narrowness and bigotry and make a homogeneous and united people. It cannot but be regretted by every wise and patriotic Canadian that the youth of the country should be separated and brought up while receiving their education in different buildings, because their parents happen to hold different religious creeds. This evil is avoided in Manitoba by the settlement. We congratulate the people of our sister Province in having carried so important a measure, and regard it as full of promise for the future of Manitoba.

Complaint is made in some quarters that in the settlement the minority has not been consulted and treated with as a minority, and especially that Archbishop Langevin, as it is said, has been ignored. This is a foolish and senseless complaint. The whole responsibility for the settlement has been assumed by the Government where it properly belongs, and where it ought to lie. The Government of a country is the Government of the minority as much as of the majority, and it is bound to take fairly into consideration the interests and good of the minority, as far as that is compatible with the good of the whole body of the people; and although, of course, there is difference of opinion whether that has been done in this case, we believe time will show that it has. How could any Government be carried on, it may be asked, if in questions where there is a difference of opinion and a conflict of interests, as there always will be, a Cabinet should have to treat with and satisfy minorities before coming to a decision? Much more, why should either the Dominion or Provincial Government consult Archbishop Langevin either in his private or official capacity? What has either Government to do with his being either a Frenchman or a Roman Catholic, or with him in any character except as a citizen, exactly on the same footing as any other citizen-clergyman. For the Government to have treated with him in either his private or official character for the purpose of either tickling his vanity, or recognizing him as a contracting party in any settlement, would be to have introduced a most vicious principle of government, to open a door for all kinds of secret cabals and backstairs influence the end of which no one could foresee, but which could only be evil. It is to us one of the recommendations of the settlement that it has been a purely Government transaction, and that the principle of responsibility for it has been kept where it properly belongs.

The settlement of this question and the manner in which it has been brought about, cannot but exercise a powerful effect upon the future legislation of the country. Lessons of several kinds have been taught by it and by the whole history of the question which are not likely soon to be forgotten, and the effect of which will be long and widely felt. The result of the whole struggle and settlement so far as the question of education is concerned, is now in the hands of the people and Government of Manitoba. There can be no going back, and the effect of continued agitation and opposition of the Roman Catholics in Manitoba, Quebec, or anywhere else can only be to prevent their obtaining such concessions in future as it may be found possible to make consistently with preserving intact the national character of the schools. If, on the contrary, they will fall in and make the most and the best of concessions already made, there is every reason to believe they will obtain such modifications as time and experience may show to be necessary to the perfecting and harmonious working of a system of national public schools for which Manitoba has so manfully contended, and which is full of promise for the best interests of the Province in the future.

Books and Magazines.

An attractive and interesting booklet written by Rev. James Cleland, of Port Hope, gives a very interesting sketch of the great popularity and usefulness of the familiar hymn, "What a friend we have in Jesus." Its authorship is ascribed, and proved beyond doubt, to Joseph Scriven, a native of Dublin, but who in 1850 came to Canada. He settled and lived in the neighbourhood of Rice Lake where, in August, 1886, he died at the age of sixty-six. Many interesting incidents in the life of the writer of this universally favorite hymn are given in this booklet and some other hymns which have never before been published. [W. Williamson, Port Hope.]

The latest output of that charming and entertaining writer of romance, Mr. Anthony Hope, is entitled "The Heart of Princess Oara," a book whose nine chapters originally appeared as separate stories in a magazine, but which, all dealing in the main with the same sentimental personage, have still a distinct unity throughout. Each of these tales deals with a love episode in the life of the Princess Oara, and owing to this fact it has been suggested that the author has not chosen the right title for his novel. Should it not rather relate to her heartlessness? But even if it be granted that the Princess was a flirt, it must be added that she was a flirt whom the whole masculine section of the human race would instantly pardon. In the entire book there is not a single dull sentence, and no one in search of light fiction can do better than devote a few hours to its perusal. [The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto; Longmans, Green & Co., London. Price 6s cents.]

Any one who has felt the need of a volume that can be opened at any point with the assurance of finding a well-selected passage of Scripture, suited in length and character for devotional reading or for use at family worship, will greatly appreciate a valuable book entitled "Bible Selections for Daily Devotion." Omitting such historical, abstruse, and other portions of Scripture as are suited for Bible study, but were not intended for devotional reading, the choicest passages from Genesis to Revelation are arranged in 365 consecutive readings of about twenty-five verses each, and printed in clear type, without note or comment. Difficult names are pronounced, the poetical parts are in verse, the text is from the Authorized Version printed in paragraphs as in the Revised Version, and the Four Gospels are arranged in one continuous narrative. Desiring to secure the re-establishment of family worship, Dr. Sylvanus Stall could not have devoted himself more effectively than in thus using his spare time for a period of three years in the selection and compilation of this volume, which is the only book of its kind published, and which will prove of great value by supplying in this most convenient form such passages of Scripture as are best suited for private, family, or public worship. The merits which make this book helpful and valuable, when known, are sure to secure for it an immense circulation. [Funk & Wagnalls Co., 11 Richmond St. West, Toronto. Price \$1.00.]

The November *Biblical World* opens with "Islam: a Sketch with Bibliography." Following this is a sketch by Professor Bruce of the Rev. Prof. Edmund of Aberdeen, accompanied with an excellent likeness. "The Fore-shadowings of Christ," by Professor Goodspeed, Chicago, is another helpful article, to which must be added several others with notices of books, making altogether an interesting number. [The University of Chicago Press.]

Of interesting articles in the most recent numbers of *Littell's Living Age* we may mention two on William Morris, "Russia's Strength," "The Queen," "The Constantinople Massacre," "The Two Archbishops," "Sir Walter Scott's First Love," "Of Women in Assemblies," by Charles Selby Oakley and a reply by Harriet McIlquham; "The Outlook of the Established Church" and "Modern Life." [The Living Age Company, Boston, Mass., U.S.]

St. Nicholas for December comes to hand with the usual wealth of juvenile literature. It is impossible, in a few words, to give any adequate idea of the excellence of this magazine as a recreation in reading for our young folks. *St. Nicholas* (The Century Co., New York), the *Youth's Companion* (Boston), *Harper's Round Table* (New York), the latter two weeklies—these are three publications of a similar nature, equal in point of merit, with one of which every home would do well to be supplied.

Vol. 16, No. 1, of *The Montreal Presbyterian College Journal* is both attractive in its appearance, and in its contents varied as well as attractive. Its departments are: "Our Graduates' Pulpit," "The Old Testament and the New Sciences," "Modern English Poets," "Home Missions," various matters, for instance the "College Opening" and "Talks on Books," given again, which all readers of the Journal will be glad to know, by Professor Campbell, L.L.D. [M. H. MacIntosh, B.A., P. O. Box 42, St. Catherine Centre, Montreal, Que.]

Charles Dana Gibson, the illustrator, after having had the idea suggested to him by two of those most familiar with his work and the scope of his abilities, neither of these being aware of the suggestion of the other, has produced a series of character sketches in pen and ink dealing with the people of Dickens. The first—that of Scrooge from "A Christmas Carol"—appears in the December number of the *Ladies Home Journal*. Mr. Gibson has evidently struck a new vein, which we will hope may be as pleasantly productive as that of the American girl. Mrs. H. W. Beecher describes in this number how her famous husband sold slaves from the Plymouth pulpit. [The Curtis Publishing Co., Philadelphia.]

Godley's Magazine continues to improve month by month. The Christmas number is especially rich in wholesome and entertaining reading. "Her Cobra Lover," a short story, the scene of which is laid in Burma, is somewhat reminiscent of Rudyard Kipling. The profession of the trained nurse is sympathetically considered, the dictum of the author being that "the vocation is one to be proud of." A woman of education and refinement can earn a competence and at the same time be doing noble work for others. [The Godley Company, 52 Lafayette Place, New York.]

The special winter number of *The Studio* forms a rich treat for those of artistic predilections. The frontispiece is a sketch by G. H. Boughton, R.A., reproduced in colours. A second color supplement is the work of Alexandre Carpentier. The whole number is exquisitely illustrated, and forms an admirable commentary upon the printer's art. In the way of letter-press there are nine articles, each of much interest to the artistic world. The first of these, "A Mountain Town in France," is by Robert Louis Stevenson. [The Studio, 5 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Price one shilling.]

Massey's Magazine is probably the most creditable thing in the line of this class of work that has yet been attempted in Canada. A decided advance may here be noted in the line of illustrating by our local artists, while, in the Christmas number, their work has been supplemented by several reproductions of Alma-Tadema's best paintings. "Before the Fire" is a study of several comfortable-looking kittens, the well-executed production of Mr. J. T. M. Burnside. Mr. F. H. Bridgen has drawn several appropriate and attractive accompaniments for poetical selections. The reading matter of this magazine shows no failure in interest. [The Massey Press, Toronto.]

The finest cover-design that we have yet noted belongs to *Scribner's Magazine* for December. It is chastely conceived and beautifully executed. And the rest of the contents do not disappoint the expectations thus aroused. At the outset is an article on Sir John Millais, illustrated by reproductions from his paintings. Richard Harding Davis contributes a readable sketch, entitled "The Last Ride Together." We have not had the pleasure of perusing anything from this gifted author's pen of late, and are consequently delighted to hear that in the January number of *Scribner's* will appear the first instalment of the only considerable novel he has so far attempted. "Soldiers of Fortune" is its attractive title. [Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.]

Poet-Lore, which has adorned many cultured homes with its presence, is in the future to be issued as a quarterly magazine of letters. The initial quarterly number covering October, November, December, 1896—is now before us, and, as has been the custom, though on a much more extensive scale, is devoted to appreciation of the poets and comparative literature. The object of *Poet-Lore*, we might explain for the information of those who are not acquainted with its nature, is to bring Life and Letters into closer touch with each other. Accordingly, its work is carried on in a new spirit; it considers literature as an exponent of human evolution rather than as a finished product, and aims to study life and the progress of ideals in letters. [Poet-Lore Co., 18 Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass. Yearly subscription, \$2.50.]

The chief feature of *Lippincott's Magazine* for a number of years has been the publication each month of a complete novel—a departure which, up to the present, has remained characteristic. "The Chase of an Heiress," by Christian Reid, is that contained in the issue for December. Several miscellaneous articles, with four attractive poems, complete a readable *melange*. Not the least interesting part of this number is a beautifully printed catalogue of books for Christmas. "Books are like comrades, good for any day in the year. But as good-fellowship seems heartiest at Christmas, so a good book is at its best beside the Christmas hearth." And so here you have a perfect banquet of books, to read about which is, in itself, to enjoy a delightful repast. [The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.]

In his series of articles on "White Man's Africa," in *Harper's Magazine*, Mr. Foulney Bigelow deals, in the issue for December, with the personality—the appearance and character—of Paul Kruger, the nominal president and virtual dictator of the Transvaal Republic. Here is in part what the author says of this very remarkable personage:—"His is a remarkable face and form. The first impression I received of Kruger suggested to me a composite portrait made up of Abraham Lincoln and Oliver Cromwell, with a fragment of John Bright about the eyes. Kruger has the eyes of a man never weary of watching, yet watching so steadily and so unobtrusively that few suspect how keen his gaze can be. There is something of the slumbering lion about those great eyes—something fearless, yet given to repose. Could we think of Kruger as an animal, it would be something suggested both by the lion and the ox. We know him to be a man of passionate act and word when roused, yet outwardly he carries an air of undisturbed serenity. His features, like those of most great men, are of striking size and form, and, moreover, harmonious. The mouth is strikingly like that of Benjamin Franklin in the well-known portrait by Du Plessis. It is a mouth that appears set by an act of will, and not by natural disposition. It parts willingly into a smile, and that smile lights his whole face into an expression wholly benevolent. All those who know Kruger have noticed this feature—this beautifying effect of his cheery smile. The photographs of him give only his expression when ready for an official speech—not his happy mood when chatting with his familiars." W. D. Howells treats of Oliver Wendell Holmes, in which he tells in his best vein the story of his acquaintance with that great man. Dr. William M. Jacques describes an interesting process for generating electricity from coal without the intervention of the steam-engine—a process of which he is the inventor. [Harpers & Bros., New York.]