

ministers who have passed middle life now so prevalent on this side of the Atlantic is growing on the other side. In the past it was common for a minister who had faithfully served his flock to be retained in office as long as he was able for the discharge of his duties, and even in cases where owing to growing infirmities he was obviously unfit. The custom, however, is changing. The writer already quoted, speaking of the unemployed ministers, says: "A great number of them, by tried and matured wisdom, are more capable than ever for their work. Yet, in the wisdom of the Churches, only 247 out of 604 veterans are allowed to continue the work to which they consecrated their lives at first." The number of unemployed preachers is increasing year by year, and the writer adds: "It is cruel on the part of colleges and churches, especially in the present state of the market, to encourage young men so freely to undertake the work, when, in all probability, they will also in a few years have to join in the bitter complaint."

This is neither a pleasant nor a hopeful state of things to contemplate. Though not in the same degree the force of these statements is beginning to be felt here. The question is about to be considered in the Toronto Presbytery how the services of our unemployed ministers may best be utilized. The Church is too indifferent to the condition of her ministers who have rendered faithful and efficient service in the past. Several who have done admirable pioneer work are now thrown aside without much consideration. Some are beginning to ask. Is this fair, is it Christian? Why this waste of experienced and tried men? There is much work yet to be done. Were all the unemployed and large numbers more steadily engaged, there are fields where their energies could find ample scope, and large results might be achieved. Surely the wisdom of the Church is equal to the task of devising some means adequate to the removal of the anomaly of having an increasing number of unemployed ministers while there is urgent work to be done in preaching the Gospel to those that are ignorant and out of the way.

#### AMATEUR JUSTICE A FAILURE.

RECENT occurrences at New Orleans do not seem to have elevated public sentiment in the United States to any very great extent. The remonstrances of the Italian Government have not been as yet productive of definite results. That Government has just ground of complaint, but all that has now been accomplished or is likely to occur is a continuance of diplomatic fencing for a time, then the possible payment of money compensation to the survivors of the victims murdered in the New Orleans prison. The melodramatic and premature withdrawal of the Italian Minister from Washington does not appear to have much influence one way or another. It has probably been dictated by the necessity of doing something apparently energetic to satisfy the indignant feeling of a section of the Italian people. Nobody apprehends anything serious from the retirement of Baron Fava from the Italian legation at Washington. Usually the precipitate withdrawal of an ambassador is regarded as the step immediately preceding a declaration of war. In the present instance no such deplorable results are expected to follow. War between Italy and the United States just now is extremely improbable. Neither nation anticipates such a termination of the present difficulties.

If there is no danger of even a temporary straining of international relations there is however a train of consequences that can only be deplored. Good is deduced from evil it is true. If the terrible tragedy has the effect of making evil-doers who traffic in the dispensation of justice by the public courts pause and reflect, something will be gained. The knowledge that many such escape has emboldened reckless men to go to desperate lengths. When once that class—dangerous in any community—who go on the supposition that justice can be bought, or perverted by threat and intimidation, are made to understand that their operations are intolerable, and that a self-respecting community are determined they shall end, jury bribing and aiding the guilty to escape will not be so common as they have evidently been of late among our American neighbours. The unprincipled scoundrels that lend themselves to the most nefarious enterprises are insensible to moral considerations. They disregard public opinion and are amenable only to the fear of detection and punishment. They neither fear God nor regard man. As Carlyle says of such, they fear the gallows and have no other fear. In these days even the gallows has lost its terror for the class of scoun-

drels referred to. They believe in their ability to purchase immunity from the last dread punishment the law prescribes. The sudden outburst of popular indignation at the perversion of justice may make a salutary impression on those who imagined the public conscience asleep and that therefore the administration of law could be tampered with.

The sad occurrence may also have the effect of rousing the average citizen to a sense of responsibility. It may remind him of the duty he owes to the commonwealth, and that he ought to take a deeper and more practical interest in public affairs. For good government in every community this is essential, if the principles of truth and righteousness are to be upheld. How are public officials to be a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well, unless pure and upright men are elected to positions of public trust? In a land where the judiciary is elective special care should be taken that only competent and conscientious men are entrusted with the administration of justice.

When all this is said, however, it remains that evil flows from evil deeds. If the majesty and impressiveness of law and order are to be maintained, the law must be administered impartially. There must be no respect of persons. The rich transgressor and the poor offender must be placed on the same plane so far as courts of justice are concerned. Both the law and its administration in this regard are capable of considerable reformation. Meanwhile it affords no excuse for individuals and classes taking law into their own hands and executing summary vengeance on those they deem offenders. How much of the reckless disregard of human life that is almost constantly displayed is owing to the impression that the ordinary course of procedure is too slow in its operation and too uncertain in its results, and that therefore wronged individuals are in a measure justified in resorting to the extremity of punishing criminals by criminal means. The disastrous events of last week in Pennsylvania afford fresh and painful instances of the folly and criminality of irresponsible parties rushing in to right their wrongs by brute force. The fatalities attending the industrial conflict in the mining region have only intensified the bitterness of feeling between the contending parties. Property has been wantonly injured, lives have been lost, and vindictive feelings aroused. Dread and exasperation have been spread throughout the community. The torch, the crowbar and the shot-gun are poor weapons to be used for the purpose of adjusting difficulties and conciliating opposing interests. If this state of affairs be suffered to continue and to spread then the horrors of civil warfare have nothing worse to offer. The severity of the conflict surely emphasizes the necessity for some practical solution of the difficulties that have been more or less intense for many years in that region. What real effort has been put forth to make these conflicts impossible? Have any attempts been seriously made to promote better and more humane relations between the mine owners and their employees? Have the Christian Churches engaged in steady and persistent work to bring the labourers within the elevating and purifying influence of the Gospel? It is often urged in explanation that the large majority of miners are foreigners, with no real sympathy with free institutions, nor an intelligent appreciation of the duties and privileges they bring. That may be, at the same time has there been any endeavour to educate them up to a clearer perception of the obligations they are under? These very men, the offscourings of Europe, have heard the glorious freedom of the American Republic lauded to the skies. Many of them know that it is an article in its constitution that all men are born free and equal and have a right to the pursuit of happiness. They find that the conditions of a miner's life differ but little from those to which they were accustomed in older lands. In former years there was a wonderful power of assimilation in the United States. The effort to make a homogeneous people was remarkably successful. Much of that power is for the present at least apparently lost. Conditions are becoming more complex. The anarchists and communists of Europe who emigrate evidently retain their extreme opinions, and little seems to be done to bring them to a better way of thinking. This residuum of the European proletariat offers a splendid field for the special application of home mission work. The fierce conflict that results in loss of life and destruction of property offers no solution of the economic questions that puzzle thinkers and alarm society, but it impresses with renewed force the lesson that only applied Christianity can adequately harmonize the discordant elements that menace the peace and stability of social and industrial life.

## Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—Last week's number completed another volume of this most admirable weekly magazine containing the choicest productions of current periodical literature.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—Fine pictures, attractive little stories and good matter specially suited to its interesting class of readers makes this admirable juvenile monthly a great favourite.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers)—"Yellowtop, or One Little Boy and his Friends," the story now appearing in this fine weekly publication, is proving of great interest to its readers. There is another serial no less interesting, "Men of Iron." In addition to these there is much that is entertaining and instructive in the pages of this finely-illustrated weekly.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—A good magazine for young people is a great treasure. Such *St. Nicholas* may fitly be described. Stories, sketches, biographies, travels, descriptive papers, amusing contributions, good poems and splendid illustrations are attractions that specially appeal to the large class of readers for whom it is designed.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—A spirited group of *Cuirassiers* forms the frontispiece of the new number of *Harper's*. It forms one of the illustrations of a paper by General Lewal on "The French Army." Hon. W. F. Vilas gives a historical and descriptive paper on "The State of Wisconsin," which is embellished with eleven portraits of prominent men identified with the progress of that State. Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden in scientific yet popular form gives "Glimpses of Bacteria." Another interesting contribution, "Thomas Hood, Punster, Poet, Preacher," by the Bishop of Kentucky, is a genial and appreciative estimate of the English humorist, to whom he not unjustly assigns a higher purpose than many are disposed to recognize. Thomas Hardy's "Wessex Folk" and Charles Egbert Craddock's "In the 'Stranger People's' Country" are strong serials, and, as usual, there are good short stories, meritorious poems and the customary departments.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—"The Brazen Android" is the curious title of a story in two parts, by the late William Douglas O'Connor, which has the place of honour in the *Atlantic* for April. Mr. Stockton's "House of Martha" continues in its usual rollicking fashion for three more chapters, and Mr. Lowell's travels pursues his way through "Nota. An Unexplored Corner of Japan." Francis Parkman's second paper on "The Capture of Louisbourg by the New England Militia" is marked by the skill and care which Mr. Parkman devotes to everything which he writes. One of the most important papers in the number is "Prehistoric Man on the Pacific Coast," by Professor George Frederick Wright, of Oberlin, in which he gives us the results of his investigations on the subject of the Nampa Image. The Hon. S. G. W. Benjamin, for some years United States Minister to Persia, has a timely consideration of "The Armenians and the Porte." The number is not without poetry Clinton Scollard, Thomas William Parsons, Thomas S. Collier and William H. Hayne being among the contributors; and in this connection Mr. William P. A. Brew's paper on "Goethe's Key to Faust" should not be forgotten. The usual able reviews, and a bright Contributors' Club close the *Atlantic* for April.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The April number of the *Century* is more than usually interesting. There is much variety in its contents. The subject of the opening paper, "Salons of the Revolution and the Empire," affords Amelia Gere Mason, whose former papers on "French Salons" attracted notice, a congenial theme on which to descend. The present contribution deals with such celebrities as Madame Roland and Madame De Staël. The writer's estimate of them is just, showing appreciative recognition of their ability and influence in the stormy period of the French Revolution. The objection to the treatment of the subject might be taken that the writing is slightly lacking in concentration. It is just a trifle verbose. The California series is continued and is full of interest. Frederick Schratka describes "Two Expeditions to Mount St. Elias," "Feetism in Congo Land," by E. J. Glone, one of Stanley's pioneer officers; "Cold Cheer in Camp Morton," by Dr. Wyeth, who was a Confederate prisoner in that cheerless abode, and "Early Inter-course of the Wordsworths and De Quincey" will receive the reader's interested attention. The serial, "Colonel Carter of Cartersville," is concluded, and Edward Eggleston's "Faith Doctor" is now under way. The artistic paper and its illustrations are specially good, having Leonardo da Vinci for subject and beautiful specimens of his work.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: 86 Bay Street.)—The April number opens with a striking article by Dr. Ellinwood on "The Present Relations of the False Religions to Christianity." Bishop Huntington writes on "Applied Christianity the True Socialism." Dr. Remensnyder discusses "Liturgical Tendencies and the Service of the Reformation." "Bibliolatry and Monumentomania" forms the sixth of Dr. Camden M. Cobern's series on "Egyptology." "The Gospel to them that are Dead," by T. D. Witherspoon, D.D., forms a strong sequel to the same author's previous article on "Christ Preaching to the Spirits in Prison." In the Sermonic Section Rev. Wesley Reid Davis, D.D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., Bishop Potter, President Bashford, Dr. MacLaren, Drs. Brand, of Oberlin, Moxom, of Boston, and others contribute admirable discourses. The Exegetical Department has a new contributor in Professor William Arnold Stevens, of Rochester, N. Y., who gives a clear, scholarly and interesting study of John 1, 5, "The Conquering Light." "John Stuart Mill on Sunday Amusements" is ably reviewed by Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts. Under "Living Issues" appears a very compact and complete statement of the origin and work of that great charity, "The Peabody Dwellings of London," full of suggestion. "Sunday Opening of the World's Fair" calls special attention to "The World's Week of Prayer for the Sabbath." The permanent features of the *Review* are well sustained, and "Blue Monday" forms an agreeable desert to the feast, with its lively original anecdotes.