

apostolic witnesses. In this connection the theories of recent German rationalists are subjected to keen scrutiny, and there is a comparison of the "Teaching of the Twelve," with the canonical Gospels. The miracles recorded in the Gospels are more fully examined in the fourth lecture, the apparent discrepancies and omissions are satisfactorily treated, and the trustworthiness of the record is fully vindicated. In the fifth lecture the Gospel Miracles in relation to Exegesis and the healing miracles of the triple tradition are the subjects of careful inquiry, while the sixth deals on the same lines with the miracles wrought on nature. As the inquiry advances the subjects under consideration grow in interest. The force of the reasoning is felt to be cumulative. This is found to be the case when the seventh lecture is reached. It is devoted to the consideration of the Gospel Miracles in relation to the Worker. Here it is clearly shown that Christ's miracles were in complete harmony with His Messianic vocation. The miracles of healing were the expression of His gracious love, and the nature-miracles had a direct bearing on the interests of the kingdom of God. The eighth lecture is occupied with a discussion of the Gospel miracles in relation to the Christian revelation. Dr. Bruce shows that miracles enter into the substance of revelation, and are not merely signs in attestation of its claims. They are vivid parabolic presentments of the truths Christ came to teach. In the ninth lecture the author takes up the great moral miracle, the Christ of the Church and of history. The views expressed in several of the recent more noteworthy critical works are carefully examined, and this leads to the tenth and last lecture in which What Christianity would be Without Miracle is considered. There it is shown that the perfect, the sinless Christ of the Gospels alone can be an object of trust and reverence to mankind. The various substitutes proposed, such as the Comtean positive religion, the worship of the universe, the worship of humanity and the worship of the Unknowable, are shown to be but empty illusions, and that a miraculous Christianity will remain in its simple grandeur to elevate, guide, enlighten, comfort and bless mankind.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—Readers who want to keep abreast of the times cannot afford to do without *Littell*.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This attractive little favourite continues bright, beautiful and graceful.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—This carefully conducted, well-written and finely illustrated weekly continues to delight and instruct its numerous readers.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—Every month *St. Nicholas* spreads out before its readers a most attractive variety of story, poem, descriptive and historical and other papers beautifully illustrated, well-fitted to delight and instruct its increasing circle of admirers.

THE NEW ENGLAND MAGAZINE. (Boston: Arthur P. Dodge Company.)—The July issue of this magazine formed the first number of the sixth volume. A series of sketches of New England educational institutions appear in its pages. In the last number, Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, with illustrations, are the institutions noticed. The other contents of the number are varied and interesting.

BIBLE DOCTRINES. Being Hints, Helps and Illustrations of Scripture Truths. By Rev. A. Ritchie, Ph.D. (Chicago: Fleming H. Revell; Toronto: Standard Publishing Co.)—This little work has been specially prepared for the use of Sabbath school teachers, Christian workers and for the instruction and edification of general readers. The subjects are arranged alphabetically, are presented briefly in clear and concise terms, supported by Scripture quotations, and aptly illustrated from a wide range of Christian literature.

THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE. Discourses upon the Holy Scripture. By Joseph Parker, D.D. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—The sixth volume of this valuable work by the popular minister of the London City Temple has made its appearance. The principal persons and events narrated in the Books of Judges, Ruth and 1

Samuel as far as chapter xviii. afford most interesting and instructive themes, and the preacher brings his extensive knowledge, spiritual insight and fresh and vigorous powers of mind to bear in their elucidation and enforcement.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Son's.)—The August number of *Scribner* presents an excellent table of contents. The Thackeray Letters, giving as they do a vivid transcript of one who filled a leading place in the literary life of his time, are continued, and their interest is unabated. "A Girl's Life Eighty Years Ago" is concluded. "The Picturesque Quality of Holland," by George Hitchcock, is a paper that will secure attention. Two papers of solid qualities are "The Instability of the Atmosphere," by N. S. Shaler, and "The Revival of Handicraft," by John F. Weir. Serials, short tales and poetry of a high order are in abundance, and the illustrations are both numerous and excellent.

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE. (New York: The Century Co.)—Each season as it comes affords the enterprising conductors of the *Century* an opportunity for specialities. The August is the Midsummer number, and a most attractive one it is. A striking portrait of Julia Ward Howe serves as frontispiece. There are breezy descriptive papers finely illustrated. The War Papers still supply historical reading, and the "Life of Lincoln" reaches a stage of deepening interest. Joel Chandler Harris begins a new three part serial "Azalia" in the current number. Edward Atkinson continues his discussion of economic questions. There is more than the usual quantity of excellent poetry by writers who have made their mark.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co.)—The papers appearing in the August number of the *Atlantic Monthly* are of a very attractive character. There is one on "The Personal Characteristics of Charles Reade," which, while anything but complimentary to his biographer, contains much relating to the deceased novelist that is interesting. "Two Years with Old Hickory" vividly recalls past events. "The Spell of the Russian Writers," by Harriet Waters Preston, displays acute critical power, and Oliver Wendell Holmes' "Our Hundred Days in Europe" lose none of their charm in description. There are well told short stories, one of them in negro dialect, attractive serials, poetry and criticism, rendering the *Atlantic* one of the best literary magazines on the continent.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—As usual, *Harper* presents an attractive number for the season. Tale, sketch and poem are appropriate, and the variety is such that most readers will have their tastes gratified. John F. Hurst, D.D., has a most interesting paper on "A Native Publishing House in India"; of a different stamp, but quite entertaining, is the first paper on "Buccaneers and Marooners of the Spanish Main," by Howard Pyle. Henry Lansdell, D.D., graphically sketches the "Natives of Siberia." "The Irish Party," with fourteen portraits, affords Edward Brown an excellent opportunity for the exercise of his analytic and descriptive powers. Other papers of decided merit, novels, tales and poems, together with the customary departments, make up a number of decided excellency.

RECEIVED.—THE WOMAN'S MAGAZINE (Brattleboro, Vt.: Frank E. Housh & Co.), **THE NEW MOON**, a people's magazine for old and young (Lowell, Mass.: The New Moon Publishing Co.).

WE heard the other Sunday evening, says the *British Weekly*, in a little suburban chapel, a sermon preached by a young minister who had every advantage of voice and delivery, was evidently capable of much tenderness of feeling and possessed of a good literary style, and instead of speaking to his hearers as men and women living in a world bustling with sin and sorrow, he delivered a thin and smart little essay on "Sentiment," one part of which was devoted to the advocacy of Imperial Federation. This contained some good advice to statesmen, but, so far as we could see, there were no Cabinet Ministers present. As if a man's hearers came to church to hear newspaper articles and notions about Imperial Federation. It is such phenomena as this that sometimes almost make us doubt the future of Christianity in England.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

THE HON. ION KEITH-FALCONER.

We have heard with our deepest regret of the early death of this accomplished young missionary, who was taken away on the 14th of May at Shaikh Othman, in South Arabia.

Mr. Keith-Falconer, who was born in 1856, was the second son of the late Earl of Kintore, and was educated at Harrow and at Trinity College, Cambridge. Although he first came before the public as an athlete-being champion bicyclist of England, he very soon gained distinctions of more importance in Hebrew and Arabic literature. Holding successfully at Cambridge the honourable positions of Tyrwhitt Scholar, Lecturer at Clare College, and Lord Almoner's Reader in Arabic, he published several important translations from the religious literature of the East, and, as recently as last October, delivered at Cambridge three striking lectures upon the "Pilgrimage to Mecca." Further evidence of versatility was given in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," to which he contributed a learned and exhaustive article on shorthand writing.

Inheriting an attachment to Presbyterianism, and especially to the Free Church, he maintained a pure and devoted character throughout his university career, with strong interest in active Christian work. Naturally he was drawn toward that earnest Christian thought and life which owes much of its character to Canon Westcott, Bishop Lightfoot and Dr. Vaughan, and which continues to send forth from Cambridge a wholesome influence of liberal and evangelical religion. He remained, however, true to the Church of his fathers, and his bright, thoughtful face was well known by those of our ministers who conducted Presbyterian services in the Cambridge town hall.

It is not strange that his interest in the literature of Arabia soon took the shape of personal concern in the evangelization of that region, and a few years ago he and his young wife (a daughter of Mr. R. C. Bevan, the eminent banker) were led to consecrate themselves and their resources to the cause of missions. He volunteered his services, free of charge, to the Free Church Foreign Committee, offering also to provide the salary of a medical missionary, with the special purpose of establishing a Christian centre in Yerman, with Aden as a base. The offer was cordially accepted; and after valedictory meetings held in various parts of Scotland, they began operations in November last on a site provided by the Government. The dispensary was soon crowded with patients, and Mr. Keith-Falconer engaged in a successful tour for the preaching of the Gospel and the circulation of the Scriptures in aid of the Arabian villages. But the divine hand, revealed so often in the blighting of our brightest hopes, bade him pause in his career ere a few months had passed. Laid low in February by repeated attacks of fever, he gave too little heed to the urgency of advisers that he should come home to recruit; and the news of his death is a heavy and unexpected blow both to his friends and to the missionary cause.

The touching tributes which were paid to him in the Free Church Assembly will find an echo in many parts both of Scotland and of England among the various circles which he touched; and even those who knew him only by repute, and through the reflected influence of his work at Cambridge, will think with thankfulness of the life-labour which he had planned, knowing the power of God to bring fruit out of the seed that seems to die when it falls upon the ground. *A. R. M., in United Presbyterian Magazine.*

A TRAVANCORE missionary says: Our general plan of open-air preaching is to go to the heart of a street, and begin to sing a lyric. We then proclaim to them the good news, which is listened to on the whole with good attention. Preaching one evening to an assembly at Vandasery, a certain man, whose attention was riveted upon the speaker, came forward and said, holding out something in his hand: The precious words which you speak deserve our solemn attention. What you say about the vanity of the world, of the immortality of the soul, of the great Saviour Jesus Christ and of heaven and hell is all true. Will you please accept this chuckram? We replied to him we did not expect anything from the hearers but to give their hearts to Christ, and politely declined to take his offer. I eagerly beg you to accept it, he added, because I give it as a small charity to be spent in the name of Jesus Christ. We objected again; but his earnest importunity prevailed on us, and we received his chuckram.