

congregations a matter of extreme difficulty. Nevertheless much good is being effected. The religious awakening that began at Aintab over a year ago has produced most cheering results. Many converts have been gathered in, and the deep religious interest has spread throughout Asiatic Turkey. In connection with the missionary operations important educational institutions are accomplishing most beneficial results.

In China the Board has four missionary centres: North China, Shansi, Foochow and Hong Kong. From all of these promising fields come most encouraging reports; that from the North China Mission is especially cheering. There is a deepening of religious interest, a steady increase in the number of converts, and an expansion of educational work. There are urgent appeals for more labourers in all of these Chinese fields, to which, owing to the awakened interest in missions in the home churches, there will doubtless be a ready response.

Africa is also a field that is cultivated by the American Board. Recent events have given to the missions there renewed interest. The principal centres from which missionary efforts are directed are three, one on the east coast among the Batsawas, one on the west coast at Bailunda and another among the Zulus in the south. In the reports from these missions there is nothing of striking importance. The work is being prosecuted with earnestness and fidelity, many signs of progress are visible and educational work is being prosecuted with diligence and success. The Scriptures are being translated into the languages of the peoples among whom the missionaries labour. For darkest Africa a bright future is anticipated.

In India the operations of the Board have been maintained, though the various fields have suffered because of the inadequacy in the number of labourers. Japan sends very encouraging reports, and it is anticipated that in a comparatively short time many of the Churches that have been but recently planted will at no distant day be self-supporting, and will be instrumental in sending the Gospel to other lands. Missions are also maintained in Mexico, Spain, Bulgaria and in the South Sea Islands. As a whole the Board is able to present a good report, one that is fitted to awaken grateful recognition of the divine blessing that rests on the work in which the Churches are engaged, stimulating to a deepening faith in the fulfilment of Gospel promises and calling for warmer zeal and fuller consecration in the prosecution of the special work committed to the Christian Church. From all over the world the Macedonian cry is heard "Come over and help us."

THE MORMONS ABANDON POLYGAMY.

THERE is perhaps nothing in which mankind is interested that presents so many vagaries as some of the conflicting religious beliefs that find favour with certain classes of the people. It seems as if no absurdity was too great to obtain a measure of human credence. Given a crack-brained enthusiast or a cool-headed, designing schemer, both will be certain to find credulous dupes. There is apparently no limit to human gullibility. The rise and progress of the Mormon imposture is one of the marvels of the nineteenth century. That its origin was fraudulent few people of average intelligence can doubt. Men who could bring themselves to palm off the story of the finding of the gold plates on which it is alleged the Book of Mormon was engraved, and who asseverated that these plates were recalled by angelic hosts after the so-called translation was made, can by no stretch of charity be regarded as sincere though mistaken enthusiasts. It cannot be pleaded that Mormonism can claim so guileless an origin. In its earlier stages it had several of the marks of a vulgar imposture, but collision with the settlers where it had a temporary resting-place attracted attention, giving it a factitious importance. Had it been then left severely alone it is probable that it would soon have died of inanition. Persecution came to its aid and gained for it a large measure of sympathy it could not otherwise have obtained. When the Mormon leaders moved westward, law and order were in a rudimentary state, and settlers were more impulsive in their manner of asserting their opinions than they are to-day. They were shocked at the efforts made to plant such a system in their midst, and their methods of opposition were summary. Their mode of controversy was cruel, and the apostles of the new religion sought safety in the far west.

In Utah they remained for a time unmolested. Their system, religious and economic, had opportunity for expansion, and the leaders were diligent

in their endeavours to extend the power and influence of the Latter Day Saints. The principal augmentations to their community have been drawn from abroad. Early in their history they sent missionaries to various parts of Europe who combined the apparently incompatible functions of evangelist and emigration agent. In their efforts to find recruits they were by no means unsuccessful. In the British Isles they were able to entice numbers to cast in their lot with the so-called saints of the far west. In Germany also they found people willing to listen to their blandishments, and Scandinavia has proved a fruitful field for replenishing the homes in Salt Lake City. The class who everywhere respond to the pleading of Mormon emissaries is not one to be greatly moved by the peculiarities of religious belief the system presents, but they are in that condition in which appeals to their self-interest in the matter of material comfort and hope are sure to be readily entertained. In over-crowded Europe it is no matter of surprise that the promise of a home and a reasonable amount of temporal prosperity should be a strong inducement to many who virtually had no future. Those likely to yield to the blandishments of the Utah missionaries have little prospect before them of anything better than a life of unremitting and unremunerative toil, and when no longer able to work with only the prospect of a pauper's life, death and burial. Theological niceties would have little meaning for them, neither would they be over-scrupulous concerning the condition of life in the far west. The stream of emigration has been kept up for a number of years, and thus the Mormon population has been maintained.

The peculiar institution of Mormonism, polygamy, has kept it in steady collision with the Government of the United States. The tension was relaxed during the rebellion war and for some time after its termination, but in recent years the conflict has been resumed and the policy of which the Edmunds Bill is the outcome has been successful. Nominally at least polygamy has ended. It was not a feature of the earlier days of the system, but foisted upon it at a later date. Who is responsible for the introduction of the plurality of wives is a disputed point. Both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young are declared to be the innovators. It was not promulgated as a special feature of Mormonism till 1850. Since then it has been practised with an assiduity that is astonishing, and defended with bitterness and determination. The sons of Joseph Smith a few years ago repudiated the practice and declared that it formed no part of the system instituted by their father. The resolute action of the State authorities in the enforcement of the Edmunds law has had a convincing effect and now at its autumn conference the Church has authoritatively pronounced against polygamy and in time it will cease to be a part of the Mormon belief and practice. There may be a suspicion that the abuse may linger for a time and that profession and practice may not be altogether coincident. Even yet numbers of female immigrants bound for Salt Lake City are being landed in New York. The other week a large company of them came from Europe to the last-named city and they were approached by the authorities and urged to reconsider their intention of joining the Mormon community. As the authorities had no power to detain them, nothing beyond moral suasion was attempted. To this they declined to yield and all of them were allowed to proceed to their destination.

The Mormon colony in our own North-West declare that they do not practise polygamy. These people have been duly warned that to do so would be an infraction of the law for which they would be held directly responsible. Though some entertain a suspicion that something of the kind exists in the settlement on Lee's Creek, nothing definite has as yet been discovered. These suspicions are not wholly groundless, for the reason that a deputation of Mormons to the Dominion capital last winter spoke in such a manner as to imply that they claimed the right to be polygamists if they chose. A man who had gained local prominence as a politician embraced Mormonism, and like most new converts was very zealous in the maintenance of his opinions, came out boldly in favour of polygamy. The suspicious attitude assumed by some is therefore not altogether unwarranted. Now that these Mormon settlers in Canadian territory have been distinctly warned that the practice so long followed in Utah will not be tolerated in the Dominion, and since the Mormon Church has formally abandoned it, there is every prospect that the Canadian offshoot will become reconciled to the situation and that we have heard the last of the philippics in favour of polygamy.

Books and Magazines.

BABYHOOD. (New York: Babyhood Publishing Co.)—This is a magazine for mothers, and contains a variety of information that will be useful and interesting to them.

LITTLELIFE'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—Whatever is best and most interesting in the current literature of the day finds a place in the pages of *Littell*. Weekly it provides a variety of instructive and entertaining reading.

NEW ENGLAND MAGAZINE. (Boston: New England Magazine Corporation.)—In the October number of this magazine a variety of interesting papers appear. Some are descriptive, historical, literary; several are copiously illustrated. Meritorious stories and poems add a charm to the number.

A MOVEMENT has recently been started in the United States, which in a simple way promises to be very helpful to home and foreign missionary enterprise. It is the formation of Extra-Cent-a-Day Mission Bands. The first number of a little four-page paper for the promotion of this movement, published at Newton Centre, Mass., has been received.

MESSRS. IMRIE & GRAHAM have issued the first number of a new weekly, the *Scottish Canadian*. It is a neat twelve-page paper, containing the kind of lore that commends itself especially to those who claim Caledonia as their birth-place. Scotchmen in Canada are sufficiently numerous to make it a brilliant success, if they extend to it the encouragement it deserves.

THE ARENA. (Boston: The Arena Publishing Co.)—Questions of present public interest are freely and fully discussed in the pages of the *Arena* by prominent writers of widely differing shades of opinion. The eighth of the "No Name" series of papers this month is devoted to "The Postmaster General and the Censorship of Morals." Another feature of the number is a contribution on "The Race Problem," by Professor W. S. Scarborough, A.M., himself a coloured man.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—For the present month the *Homiletic* presents a rich table of contents. The Review Section has "Literature and Life," by Rev. Frank C. Haddock; "Orin, an Old English Poet-Homilist," by Professor T. W. Hunt, Ph.D.; "Congregational Organization and Supervision," by Arthur T. Pierson, D.D.; "The Preacher's Voice and His Use of It," by Rev. Theodore E. Schmarck; "Biblical Homiletics," by Charles E. Knox, D.D. The Sermonic and other sections are equally full and well sustained.

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY. (Toronto: The Canada Educational Monthly Publishing Co.)—The October number of this admirable educational magazine has an attractive table of contents. The Rev. George Bruce, B.A., contributes a paper on "The Harbour of St. John, N. B." This is followed by a paper that deserves careful perusal. It is entitled "A Modern Philippi," by J. C. Robertson, B.A., and is a well put plea for classics as an important element in modern education. There are, besides, a number of other papers that will be highly appreciated by all interested in education.

THE METHODIST MAGAZINE. Edited by W. H. Withrow, D.D. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The series of illustrated papers, so interesting to readers of this magazine are continued in this month's issue. The editor continues his fascinating narrative of the "Canadian Tourist Party in Europe." Lady Brassey's "Last Voyage" still runs its course, and the "Vagabond Vignettes" give interesting pictures of Oriental life and scenery. "Father Taylor, the Sailor-Precursor," and Dr. McCosh's paper on "The Church and the Capital and Labour Question" are each in their way well worthy of perusal. As a whole the magazine is deserving of generous support.

THE MAGAZINE OF CHRISTIAN LITERATURE. (New York: The Christian Literature Company.)—This excellent monthly has reached the first number of the third volume. It reproduces all that is noteworthy in current religious literature, presenting each month a variety of papers from the pens of the most prominent men of the day. It is wide in its range, thereby affording intelligent readers an opportunity of knowing at first-hand the various phases of religious thought of the time. In this number there are papers by Professor Huxley, Sir William Dawson, W. E. Gladstone, Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Dr. Shedd and Dr. Newman Smith, and other writers of undisputed eminence.

KNOX COLLEGE MONTHLY. (Toronto: D. T. McAlinsh.)—The present number of the *Monthly* completes the twelfth volume. Its pages are largely devoted to the reproduction of the lecture and addresses at the opening of the Session in Knox College. Professor Thomson's able exposition of "The Evolution in the Manifestation of the Supernatural" in its completed form is the first paper. It is followed by "The Moderator's Charge to the New Professor," and Dr. Parson's paper on "The Present Needs of Knox College." The Rev. W. A. Wilson, of Neenach, concludes his series of papers on "Itinerating in Central India." These and the able papers contributed by Mrs. Wilson have been very interesting. The *Monthly* maintains a vigorous existence, and fills an important place.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE. By the Rev. Henry Burton, M.A. (Toronto: Willard Tract Depository.)—The work of Mr. Burton on the Gospel by Luke is worthy of the place assigned it as one of the series of the "Expositor's Bible." The aim of the promoters of this great work is to present to intelligent readers the representative religious thought and scholarship of the day. The many writers for the "Expositor's Bible" are selected from no narrow circle. Capability and reverence for the inspired Word are deemed the only indispensable qualifications. Mr. Burton's volume on Luke will be highly prized for its clear and thoughtful exposition of the Saviour's words and works as recorded by the beloved physician. It will be found eminently helpful for the Christian minister, the earnest student, the Sabbath school teacher, the devoted Christian worker and the devout reader of the Scriptures for the light and strength and inspiration they are fitted to impart to the individual Christian life and service.