

any matter of importance hurried over without due consideration. It is clear that executive and administrative ability is not the exclusive possession of the sterner sex. The address of welcome and the response were worthy of the occasion, and the general speaking was practical, business-like and to the point. The reports, though in the nature of the case formal, were not by any means the least interesting part of the proceedings. The president's address gave a comprehensive view of the remarkable advance made by the Gospel in heathen lands and the deepening interest in the work almost everywhere apparent. The Foreign secretary's report gave full details of the work in Central India, Honan, China, and among the Indians in our own North-West. From the Home secretary's report it appears that there are now twenty-five Presbyterian societies, 437 auxiliaries, 176 mission bands; these comprise a total membership of 15,168. In literature specially adapted to promote the work of the Society among old and young, a total of 82,133 issues had been made during the year. The report submitted by the treasurer shows that, financially, the past has been a prosperous and progressive year, the total amount raised amounting to \$31,999.28. This indicates a degree of liberality fitted to excite feelings of greater hopefulness for the future. The appropriation made of the funds will commend itself to the Church generally as being eminently judicious. Not the least interesting act of liberality on the part of the delegates, who, though they could not officially make a grant to Pointe-aux-Trembles school, had no difficulty in making a voluntary contribution of over \$100 for the funds of that most useful and deserving institution. This annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society is in itself a very helpful means for deepening and diffusing popular interest in Foreign Missions. The delegates appointed to attend it are more fully imbued with the missionary spirit, and the congregations in the city, where the meetings are held, receive a fresh impulse and a new accession of missionary zeal. Well may these devoted Christian workers enter upon the fifteenth year of their work with feelings of devout gratitude for what they have been enabled to accomplish in the past; with high hopes of still greater usefulness in time to come; and with renewed consecration and redoubled zeal, knowing that they have the approval and esteem of the Church, and better still, the benediction of Him who said, "Go ye into all the world" resting upon their unselfish and beneficent endeavours.

#### AN ARCHBISHOP'S CIRCULAR.

THE Archbishop-elect of Kingston is evidently a man of lively temperament. He belongs emphatically to the Church militant, and from his pugnacious disposition it seems probable that he will seldom be without a broil to occupy his attention, and keep his facile controversial pen in constant exercise. He is either the chosen or the self-elected champion of the hierarchial system of primary education. It is in connection with this question that he has acquired the degree of prominence he would have otherwise escaped. His utterances, public and private, are lacking in the repose and dignity which the stately occupant of so exalted a position is usually supposed to possess. Still, the fresh impetuosity is all the more piquant coming as it does from so unlooked for a quarter.

This time the Archbishop-elect of Kingston has not sought to obtrude himself on the public gaze. Greatness is thrust upon him despite any effort of his own to avoid publicity. That in this last instance he sought "to do good by stealth and blushes to find it fame," is evident from the fact that the circular which has drawn fresh attention to the Archbishop and his doings had on the top left-hand corner the monitory words "private and confidential." By what means the sacredness of that seal was broken there is no intimation, but that it has been disregarded is plain from the fact that it has appeared successively in the principal daily journals of this city, as well as elsewhere. It might be a matter of passing interest to ascertain how the private and confidential circular came into other hands than those designed for its reception. The subject of the circular though deeply affecting the interest of the laity was not primarily addressed to them but "to the very Rev. and Rev. Clergy of the diocese of Kingston." Can it be that some one or more of the ecclesiastical members of the Archbishop's flock, in a moment of irritation at the assumptions contained in the circular, handed it over to the secular arm of the press, for the purpose of

letting the outside world see how matters are managed within the fold?

In countries where the Roman Catholic Church has free control it is a significant fact that illiteracy abounds. Spain, Italy, the South American Republics are not countries in which popular education, when left exclusively in the hands of the priests, has made striking advances. When the church has everything its own way, there is the utmost indifference in the cause of popular education. It is only when side by side with progressive Protestantism that the ecclesiastical authorities bestir themselves. The common people of the Roman Catholic Church become sensible of the disadvantages to which they are put by lack of educational facilities. The Church has assumed that so far as it can manage it, there shall be no national system unless it can be controlled by Roman Catholic ideas. Nor is it less significant that in those lands where the ecclesiastical grasp on the educational system has been relaxed by the establishment of free institutions the popular will has invariably manifested itself in direct antagonism to priestly assumption. Modern Italy does not even listen with patience to the claims of the Vatican to control education. Mexico is no longer willing to submit her educational affairs to the control of the Jesuits, and one of the first acts of the provisional government of the Brazilian Republic was to liberalize and extend its system of education. That belated bigotry should find a mouth-piece in a recently imported Irish ecclesiastic may to some be surprising, but then those who have been observant of the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church will scarcely be surprised at anything some of her representatives may say on the vexed question of national education. He has simply blurted out what others more cautious would hesitate to say.

The law of Ontario makes provision for the education of all children from the age of six to sixteen, irrespective of race or creed distinctions. The religious beliefs of parents and children are amply protected by an efficient conscience clause. Roman Catholics as well as others have the legal right to avail themselves of the educational institutions provided for them. That is the civil right of every Canadian, and whoever interposes to hinder the people in the free exercise of their rights is no friend to civil and religious liberty. The man who attempts to do so thereby contributes to the hastening of that conflict which Romanism by its illiberality and aggressiveness is determined to force on all freedom-loving people. If collision comes it is morally certain that mediævalism will go to the wall and stay there. The friends of national education and free institutions will rather be pleased than alarmed at the contents of this private and confidential circular. There are indications that Roman Catholic parents would be quite content to avail themselves of the ordinary public schools if left to their own judgment in the matter. It was stated not long ago that throughout the province there were about 50,000 Roman Catholic children in attendance on the public schools. The exceptionally strong language of the circular is itself evidence that the utmost limit of ecclesiastical force must be brought into requisition to whip the faithful into line. Why is it so if the people are convinced that separate schools are the only ones where Roman Catholic children can receive a proper education? If people are sure that a certain course is right is it necessary to invoke the fullest stretch of priestly authority, and to follow them to their dying pillows with threats that to the docile Roman Catholic must seem terrible; nay, even to go beyond this and hint that eternal damnation may overtake those who refuse compliance with the behests of the hierarchy? If this should be deemed an unfair inference what does the following language of the circular really mean?

It follows that such rebellious Catholics as I refer to cannot receive any sacraments or any favour from the church, even in *articulo mortis*, so long as they persist in their rebellious disposition and refuse to sign the written declaration aforesaid, or order it to be signed in their name. And should any of them unhappily die in that state, I hereby ordain that no public mass shall be offered nor any public prayers said for his soul, nor shall his corpse be admitted into the church, nor any bell be tolled for announcement of his death or burial, nor shall it be lawful for any priest to attend his funeral. But if the dying sinner shall have signed the required declaration of repentance, and consequently died in the peace of the Church, the pastor is hereby required to read such declaration aloud to the faithful in the church before the funeral mass or absolution of the corpse, and also at mass on the following Sunday before praying for the soul of the deceased.

It needs only a few such ecclesiastical mandates to open the eyes of the Catholic people to the fact that they are being held in a moral and spiritual bondage that will inevitably become intolerable. The yoke of the oppressor can never be made permanent.

## Books and Magazines.

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH UNIONS. Lecture and Letters. By Rev. William McLaren, D.D., Professor of Systematic Theology, Knox College, Toronto, with an appendix containing Rev. Dr. Langtry's Letters in reply to Dr. McLaren, and also the Lambeth Articles. (Toronto: Presbyterian News Co.)—This is a reprint of the Professor's thoughtful and sensible lecture delivered at the opening of the last Session of Knox College, together with the animated and racy correspondence it occasioned.

THE BOOK BUYER. New York. Charles Scribner's Sons.—A new feature is begun in this month's number—"In the Library," a page of confidential and gossip chat on bookish and art topics. The engraved portrait is of W. Clark Russell, the sea novelist. The portrait is accompanied by an authorized sketch of Mr. Russell. The other features of the *Book Buyer*, its illustrations and readings from new books, its descriptive reviews, its answers to queries, its London and Boston Letters, and its notes about books and authors are as attractive as ever.

THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDENT. (Hartford, Conn.: The Student Publishing Co.)—The Gospel according to Luke, being the text of the present International Lesson series, receives prominence in this very valuable monthly. There is a paper by President H. G. Weston, D.D., and the series of studies, "The Life and Times of Christ," by the editors, Professor Harper and Professor Goodspeed. Professor Beecher continues his papers on "The Post-exilic History of Israel." To diligent students of the sacred Scriptures this magazine is a valuable help.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE.—New York: Macmillan & Co.—Those interested in aquatic sports will find this month's number of the *English Illustrated* very interesting. Rowing at the two great English Universities is treated artistically as well as descriptively. "Rowing at Oxford" is by W. H. Grenfell and R. C. Lehmann describes "Rowing at Cambridge." Both give several portraits of celebrities connected with each University. Other interesting illustrated papers are "A Glimpse of Highclere Castle" and "Social Life in Bulgaria." "The Last Words of Don Carlos" is a poem of considerable power. "The Ring of Amasis" is continued.

THE BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATOR. By Rev. Joseph S. Exell, M. A. St. Luke. Vol. III. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—Whatever throws light on the meaning of Scripture is valuable to all who love to study the Divine Word, but it is especially so to those engaged in the work of Christian instruction whether from the pulpit, in the Sabbath school class or in other ways. To all such this work will be helpful. The materials, carefully selected and well arranged, consist of anecdotes, similes, emblems, illustrations, expository, scientific, geographical, historical, and homiletic, gathered from a wide range of home and foreign literature on the verses of the Bible.

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY. Edited by Archibald MacMurchy, M.A. (Toronto: The Canada Educational Monthly Publishing Co.)—The April issue of this excellent educational magazine is very attractive to the circle of readers for which it is specially designed. Professor McNaughton, the new incumbent of the Greek chair in Queen's University, contributes the concluding part of his inaugural on "The Study of Greek." "The Two Fallacies"—that grammatical analysis should be used very sparingly, and that to endeavour to teach a right by presenting a wrong is absurd and mischievous—are discussed with much ability and common sense by Mr. A. H. Morrison of Brantford Collegiate Institute. The other contents of the number are varied, interesting and useful.

THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW.—(New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. Toronto: The Presbyterian News Co.)—The second number of this highly valued quarterly has made its appearance promptly. The issue is one of decided excellence. It is noticeable that, with one exception, the principal contributions are from professorial pens. It is by way of eminence an academic number. This is not stated as a fault but as a fact. It is fitting that those whose erudition and opportunities specially qualify them for the discussion of important speculative and practical theological questions should favour the intelligent reader with their views, but it can hardly be that the presidents and professors are competent to contribute to its pages. Professor A. L. Frothingham, jr., writes on "Christian Art and Theology," J. Romeyn Berry, D.D., on "Church Discipline," Professor Thomas H. Skinner, "The Fatherhood of God," Professor Timothy G. Darling, "The Church and Doctrine," President Scovel, "College Comity," Professor R. D. Wilson, "The Date of Genesis x." The Historical and Critical Notes are by President Ethelbert D. Warfield and Professor J. De Witt. The Editorial Notes are by four distinguished academicians, Principal Caven among them, who writes on the Jesuits in Canada. The summary of theological and general literature is an excellent feature of the *Review*.

EXPOSITION OF THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, in a series of Discourses. By Rev. D. B. Cameron. Vols. I and II. (Toronto: Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.)—A glance at these volumes calls up mournful as well as pleasant reminiscences. They are in a sense the completed work of one who was esteemed and beloved wherever he was known. His sterling and consistent character entitled him to the genuine respect with which he was regarded. These expository discourses on the Epistle to the Hebrews were completed just before he was seized with his last illness. All who knew Mr. Cameron will prize this his latest work as a valuable memento of one who lived in the spirit of the Gospel he loved to preach. The origin and intent of the work is thus described in his own words: "This exposition is the fruit of a long study of the Epistle to the Hebrews, for it is now a good many years since the author's attention was first directed to it. Regarding it as the key to the typical ritual of the Old Testament dispensation, he prepared discourses for the pulpit on select passages of it more frequently than he did on any other book of Scripture. Finding, after a number of years, that in this way he had written expositions on the greatest part of the epistle, he resolved to write on the passages which had been omitted." Like his work on the Ephesians, it is clear and direct in style, orthodox in theology and evangelical in sentiment. It is strong and healthy Christian teaching and is sure to meet with cordial appreciation.