

and inferior race, observed that exclusive devotion to one pursuit and few ideas is known to give contracted skulls. It is difficult perhaps for those to whom one pursuit and one set of subjects are to be their daily bread to know how far they may with safety indulge in collateral studies. But there can hardly be a doubt as to the benefit of these, if they can be had. An absolute singleness of pursuit almost means a mind always in one attitude, an eye that regards every object, however many-sided, from one point of view—an intellectual dietary beginning and ending with one article. Good sense and modesty obviate a multitude of mischiefs, but the exclusiveness of which I now speak is in itself prone to serious evils. It loses the benefit of the side-lights which the kingdoms of knowledge cast upon one another. It disposes each man to exaggerate the force and value of his own particular attainment, and perhaps therewith his own importance. It deprives the mind of the refreshment which is healthfully afforded by alternation of labour, and of the strength as well as the activity to be gained by allowing varied subjects to evoke and put in exercise its wonderfully varied powers.

"So much, gentlemen, for your future callings and your actual studies. As to the temper in which you should set about them, you have little need of exhortation, and my closing words under this head shall be few. Be assured that every one of you has his place and vocation on this earth, and that it rests with himself to find it. Do not believe those who too lightly say nothing succeeds like success; effort, gentlemen—honest, manful, humble effort—succeeds by its reflected action, especially in youth, better than success, which, indeed, too easily and too early gained, not seldom serves, like winning the first throw of the dice, to blind and stupefy. Get knowledge all you can, and the more you get, the more you breathe upon its nearer heights their invigorating air, and enjoy the widening views, the more you will know and feel how small is the elevation you have reached in comparison with the immeasurable altitudes that yet remain unascended. Be thorough in all you do, and remember that, though ignorance often may be innocent, pretension is always despicable. But you, like men, be strong, and the exercise of your strength to-day will give you more strength to-morrow. Work onwards, and work upwards; and may the blessing of the Most High soothe your cares, clear your vision, and crown your labours with reward."

THE ANNEXATION AGITATION.

ONE or two of the more sensational papers on the other side are trying hard at present to get up a talk about Canadian Independence and Annexation to the States; and are even declaring that Canada is full of the idea, and all but ready for the final coup. Anything more absurdly away from the facts could not easily be imagined. Our readers, we are sure, have not seen the slightest intimations of such an agitation being in progress and will be astonished when told that they are preparing to part company with Great Britain. A few years ago the correspondent of a New York paper staid at the same hotel in Ottawa with a friend of ours, and the two became very intimate. As the grotesquely inaccurate (to put it mildly) descriptions of men and things came back in print our friend took the liberty of saying: "How possibly could you write such things? You know they have not a shadow of fact to stand upon." The answer was as frank as it was characteristic: "I am sent here to write startling, sensational things; and I do it. It is a mere question of bread and butter. If I did not supply the article wanted I should lose my situation." That frank, outspoken individual is perhaps still alive. If not, he has at any rate successors who can do his "spiriting" as courageously and with quite as scant an amount of material to work upon.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

YOU have attended your New Year prayer meeting, it has been a time of deep feeling and solemnity, you have reviewed the past and felt how far short your life has fallen of the requirements of the Gospel and your own privileges. In view of this you have resolved that by God's grace the future shall be better than the past, more worthy of the profession you have made. But perhaps the feeling has been vague, it has not taken definite shape and form; wanting this it will be like "the morning cloud and the early dew"—pass speedily away and leave no trace behind. Suffer us to indicate in a few words some channels of action into which these feelings may flow and carry blessings with them. Let them affect:

1. *Your Pastor.*—He is not all that you would wish him to be—likely enough, seeing that he is but human; but you will admit that he is a good man and anxious to do good; give him then your hearty support and sympathy. Speak well of him, and encouragingly to him. You will find that he is a better and more useful man for all you thus do and say.

2. *Your Church and its Services.*—Be in your place as regularly as possible, Sabbaths and week-days; don't think that you are only one and that your presence or

absence will make no difference; it does; it is an encouragement to those who do come, the absent will hear of it and feel it as a reproach. Do not begrudge your means; you are a steward for the Master. What have you that you have not received? Give freely, as God hath prospered you.

3. *Your Sunday School.*—Teach, if you can; if not, encourage those who do, by shewing interest in their work. Help by sending scholars. Visit when you can; and give of your substance for the carrying on of the work.

4. *The Home Missionary Work.*—Don't let your sympathies and efforts be confined to your own church. Through the length and breadth of the land there is work to be done, there are struggling Christian pastors, hardly worked and poorly paid; vast districts calling out for the Gospel. Let them have your sympathies, your prayers, and your aid—the fields are white for the harvest. Don't rest with praying the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers, help them to go.

5. *Our Colleges.*—The future of our churches largely depends upon our colleges; make them strong, efficient, not leave them needy and struggling, and they will send forth men who will be a power for the Church of God.

These are far from being all, but if your heart moves out in sympathy to these, it will not rest on them, but will look abroad and rejoice to aid so far as possible, in everything that tends to elevate and bless humanity. Thus your New Year resolutions will bear precious fruit, and you yourself will be a better and a happier man.

THE new Presbyterian church at Selkirk, Manitoba, was opened on Sabbath, 28th December. Rev. Dr. Black preached in the morning, Rev. W. Casson in the afternoon, and Rev. Mr. Matheson, of Springfield, in the evening.

AT a meeting of the Home Mission (Sub) Committee, held in Toronto last week, the Rev. W. D. Russell, of Montreal, was appointed as second missionary for the men on the Canada Pacific Railway. The Committee hope to appoint, at the meeting in March, a missionary for Sault Ste. Marie, to succeed the Rev. J. R. McLeod, who returns to Ontario in May. Ministers and licentiates of our Church, or members of the senior classes in our Theological Halls, who desire such an engagement, should correspond with the Convener of the Home Mission Committee—Dr. Cochran—on or before the first of March.

THE young ladies of the Bible Class of the First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, called at the Manse on Monday evening, Dec. 22nd, and presented the wife of their pastor, Rev. G. Burnfield, with an address and a beautiful silver cake basket and butter cooler. Mr. Burnfield thanked the young ladies most warmly and heartily for their kindness to his wife, and both he and Mrs. Burnfield felt, when they saw themselves surrounded by those bright young faces, that the value of the gift was increased a thousandfold by the love which prompted it.

A SOCIAL meeting under the auspices of the Young People's Association, of St. Matthew's Presbyterian church, Osnabruck, was held on Friday evening, the 26th ult. About five hundred were present. Refreshments in great abundance were served in the vestry. After some time had been spent in pleasant social intercourse, the programme of the evening commenced: the Rev. D. L. McCrae, pastor of the congregation, in the chair. The Rev. Prof. Campbell, M.A., of Montreal, delivered a lecture on "Development." The learned lecturer was applauded throughout, and at the close received a hearty vote of thanks from a delighted audience.

IT has remained for the canny Scots of Dunfermline to look a gift-horse in the mouth very keenly, and to consider whether to accept generously tendered bounty might cost something. That is what the authorities of that place are carefully pondering concerning the proposition of Andrew Carnegie, a naturalized citizen of the United States, who has offered to give five thousand pounds for the establishment of a free library at Dunfermline, his native place. They are afraid after he gives the money he might not keep up the library at his own expense, and so have prudently declined to accept the gift. They seem to think that a library is of no use if its permanent support is not guaranteed. Canny, cautious Dunfermline!

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Canadian Methodist Magazine, January, 1880.

A very good number of a very good magazine.

The Presbyterian Record.

"The Presbyterian Record," for January, comes out in much improved style. It is certainly both cheap and good.

The Homiletic Monthly.

"The Homiletic Monthly," for January, has a goodly supply of sermons, outlines, hints, texts, etc., which, if wisely and honestly used, may be exceedingly helpful to many in their efforts for the advancement of the cause of Christ.

Cassels' Family Magazine, December, 1879.

Canadian Edition. Toronto: J. P. Clougher.

"Cassels' Family Magazine" has long been an established favourite. This Canadian edition is exceedingly well got up, and will no doubt command, as it deserves, a very wide circulation. The new volume begins with the December number which is just published in Toronto, and is an exceedingly attractive one. When consultations are being held as to what periodicals shall be taken during the current year, let not this one be overlooked. We may add that the Canadian edition is printed from the English plates, but on better paper and at a much lower price.

The Catholic Presbyterian.

London: James Nisbet & Co. Toronto: James Bain & Son.

Some months ago the readers of the "Catholic Presbyterian" enjoyed a rich treat in the shape of an article on Mission work, taken from among the unpublished papers of Dr. Livingstone. In the December number they will find, from the same source, a paper on "The Transvaal Boers," which is specially interesting and important at the present time, as throwing light on the causes of the trouble in South Africa. In the article on "Metrical Versions of the Psalms," some passages from the Scottish version, commonly known as Rouse's, are placed in juxtaposition with corresponding passages from a version by Milton, to the evident disadvantage of the latter. Under the caption "Samson Agonistes," the Rev. R. Balmorie makes a well-marked point in exhibiting the power of individualism in religion as distinguished from the united action of numbers. There is but one contribution of American authorship. It is on "The Legitimate Province of Biblical Criticism," by Rev. Dr. Sloane, of Allegheny, and will repay a careful perusal, as will the remaining articles, which for want of space we cannot even mention.

The Complete Home.

By Julia McNair Wright. Philadelphia, U.S.A.; and Brantford, Ont.: Bradley, Garretson & Co.

In the full title, only a part of which we have given above, this book claims, and that justly, to be "An Encyclopædia of Domestic Life and Affairs." The arrangement is topical, the style conversational, and the book is therefore all the more readable; but, by means of a very full alphabetical index, any one of the multitudinous subjects whereof it treats can be found at a moment's notice. To say that Mrs. Wright has exhausted her theme would perhaps be rash, but it is difficult to point out where she has failed. She tells how to cook a potato and rule a household, heal a burnt finger and choose a friend. She condemns thin-soled shoes and socialism, defends "Alladin" and the Bible, advocates early hours and practical religion. As a writer who regards the family as a divine institution, and whose object is to strengthen the ties which bring its members together, Mrs. Wright deserves the thanks of the community, and that expressed in the most tangible way by the wide circulation of her volume, the only objection to which is that it is too large and consequently too expensive for many who would benefit much by its perusal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Dr. Reid has received the following anonymous contributions, viz: One gold ring, original cost, \$7.50, for Home Mission, and from the same donor, \$1, for the Waldensian pastors; from "Jackson," \$5, for Foreign Missions; and from "Elder," \$2, for Indore Mission; "A Little Boy's money," \$10.

A RECORD of vital statistics shews that during the past year there were in New York city 28,165 deaths, 75,339 births, and 8,385 marriages.